FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 229 *29 November 1982*

ARGENTINA

Bignone Holds Press Conference 26 November B 1
Former Bolivian Minister Granted Asylum B 5
Unrest Over Municipal Tax Increases Continues B 5
[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 26 Nov]
Nicolaides Praises Army Role in War on Terrorism B 6
[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 26 Nov]
Detainees at Disposal of Executive Branch Released B 6

BOLIVIA

Siles Zuazo Departs for UN 27 November C 1
Foreign Minister on Sea Outlet, Other Topics C 1
Two Men Attack Acting President Paz Zamora C 2

BRAZIL

Foreign Minister on Trade Problems With U.S. D 1
[O GLOBO 23 Nov]
Negotiations To Begin for $6 Billion IMF Loan D 1
Vice President on Next Presidential Succession D 2
Election Still Undecided in Five States D 2

COLOMBIA

Betancur Letter Asks Reagan To Help With IDB F 1
Government Considering Relations With Cuba F 1
Bateman Denies Cuban Support for M-19 F 1
[Caracas Radio Continente]
Amnesty for Panamanian, Costa Rican Prisoners F 2
Surrender of Guerrilla Leader Reported as Hoax F 2
[EL TIEMPO 23 Nov]

ECUADOR

Government Condemns Attack on Israeli Embassy G 1
Israeli Ambassador Comments G 1
Alfarist Front Convention Reelects Leader G 1
PCD Takes New Name; Proposed Banner Challenged G 2
Marxist-Oriented Workers Union Founded G 2

URUGUAY

Opposition Leads in Preliminary Results K 1
Party Faction Denies Links With Foreign Groups K 1
Peso To Float To Determine Exchange Policy K 1

MEXICO

Solidarity Groups Score Reagan L.A. Visit M 1
[Radio Venceremos]
Guests for De la Madrid Swearing In Noted M 1
Briefs: Honduras, Botswana, Oman Ambassadors M 1

CENTRAL AMERICA

COSTA RICA

Reportage on Upcoming Ronald Reagan Visit P 1
Monge on Protest Signs P 1
Monge on Nicaraguan Comments P 1
Former Minister's Rejection [Managua] P 1
Government Minister Remarks [LA NACION 23 Nov] P 3
'Accolade for Democracy' [LA NACION 23 Nov] P 4
LIBERTAD: 'Historic Shame' [28 Nov] P 4
Spokesman on Proposed Talks With Nicaragua P 5

EL SALVADOR

Reaction to Upcoming Ronald Reagan Tour P 5
Magana Meeting Topics [EL DIARIO DE HOY 27 Nov] P 5
Businessmen Seek Meeting [EL MUNDO 25 Nov] P 6
'Affront to Democracies' [Radio Venceremos] P 6
Venceremos Comments P 7
Coprefa Reports on Chalatenango Operations P 7
FMLN Reports La Union Department Operations P 8
[Radio Venceremos]
Venceremos on Salvadoran-Honduran Coordination P 10

GUATEMALA

State Council President on Reagan Meeting P 11
[PRENSA LIBRE 26 Nov]
Minister Returns, Comments on OAS Meeting P 12
[EL GRAFICO 26 Nov]

HONDURAS

Reportage on Upcoming Ronald Reagan Visit P 12
Official 19 Nov Press Release [TIEMPO 20 Nov] P 12
Coordinators Appointed P 13
Deputies Foresee Benefits [TIEMPO 20 Nov] P 13
TIEMPO Appraisal [20 Nov] P 13
Alvarez Martinez Holds News Conference P 15

NICARAGUA

Demonstrators Protest Upcoming Reagan Tour P 26
Borge on Nueva Segovia Action, Reagan Trip [Havana] P 26
Foreign Minister D'Escoto Visits Hungary P 26
[cross-reference]

CUBA

Castro Asks Nonaligned To Defend Mozambique Q 1
Reagan Tour Aimed at Latin American Peoples Q 1
Nunez-Led Nicaraguan Delegation Arrives 28 Nov [EFE] Q 2
Man Jumps Fence, Enters Venezuelan Embassy [AFP] Q 2

OTHER COUNTRIES

PERU

More Provinces Under State of Emergency V 1

VENEZUELA

Calderon Says OPEC Should Keep $34 Price [OPECNA] V 1

BIGNONE HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE 26 NOVEMBER

PY271942 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0210 GMT 27 Nov 82

[Press conference granted by President Reynaldo Bignone in Posadas during 26 November visit to Misiones Province]

[Excerpts] Posadas, Misiones, 26 Nov (TELAM) -- Argentine President Reynaldo Benito Antonio Bignone categorically denied today that he had received any proposal to hold a meeting with U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

During a press conference held from 1810 to 1955 at the Misiones Government House, the Argentine president noted that in view of the resolutions adopted by the United Nations and the OAS, he hoped that the Malvinas Islands would be restored to Argentina.

Referring to various subjects, he said that there is no set timetable yet for the country's institutionalization, that his visit to this province left him with a very satisfactory impression and that he was very optimistic about the future of this province.

Despite delays in his schedule due to the long time taken by his final meetings, the nation's president prolonged his talk with the Misiones journalists beyond the scheduled time. Subjects of current interest were discussed such as the Beagle question, the Yacyreta hydroelectric project, the political situation and the case of missing persons.

After greeting the journalists, he said that he was ready to answer questions, adding that his visit to Misiones Province would not be complete without meeting with the media represented by those journalists in attendance because the impressions and thoughts of the nation's president at this time on the questions they wanted to raise would best be conveyed through them. The president said: I am here to answer the questions you wish to ask.

Journalist: Do you have any specific announcement to make regarding an important national undertaking such as Yacyreta, which has been postponed several times because of a series of factors that are well known?

President: As you know, Yacyreta is a long-term project. The next important step is the awarding of bids since most of the previous steps have already been taken. There are some works that are in the advanced stage and will soon be finished. It is the intention of the government to promote this binational undertaking. The agreements with Paraguay are being implemented in a satisfactory manner, and so are all the others that have been in force up to now. As for the time that it will take to build it -- approximately 5 years plus another 6 years until electricity is generated -- and as to the amounts to be invested, we would like to discuss these issues with different national sectors, particularly with the political and energy sectors. This is our position and I reassert that it is the wish and the intention of the Argentine Government to carry out this undertaking since we consider the need to implement that national energy plan to be of great importance and view it as a basic element for achieving the development of the northeast region of Argentina.

Journalist: Like my colleagues, I will ask you two questions. There have been some difficulties in the bids to privatize television channels, particularly those in Buenos Aires, because some of the bidders believe that parts of the bid specifications are unconstitutional. What is the government's decision in this regard?

The second question is whether there will be cabinet changes, since Minister Reston has reportedly said that there may be cabinet and even presidential changes but the path for achieving the institutionalization of the country will not be changed.

President: These are really two questions concerning completely different issues. Regarding the first, the national government is closely studying in general the turning of radios and television channels to private hands and the influence that the enforcement of Clause B, Article 45, may have had on this and other subjects and its unconstitutionality. However, it has not been studied in the specific term you mentioned. In this regard, it will be the courts that will have to decide on whether Article 45 is unconstitutional or not. From the government's point of view I can only say that what has been done up to now and the influence of the enforcement of Clause B, Article 65, is under study.

Now, regarding the second question, I can only say that I agree with the interior minister. There can always be changes. This would be the same as asking someone if he believes he is about to die. The answer you would get is that the person in question is healthy, but you would not get a specific answer. Using the same figure of speech, I can say that the cabinet is absolutely healthy. It is in complete agreement with the president who is the chief of the cabinet.

Now regarding the interior minister, who is here with me, I would like to be even more specific. As you know, since the beginning of this administration on 1 July I have held numerous meetings with leaders from the many national sectors, particularly with those from the political, union, economic and religious sectors, that is, with all representative national sectors. Although I can't say that these leaders have not expressed the need for change in general, during all this time -- since 1 July -- no one, no leader has questioned the actions of the interior minister. Moreover, the performance of the interior minister, which is completely in keeping with the objectives of the national government, rules out any of the possibilities you mentioned. Furthermore, we do not know where these commentaries come from or what the objective behind them is. I reassert that none of the sectors we have contacted nationally have even raised the issue.

Journalist: You spoke about the political issue. I would like to ask what the results of the national accord process that has been established by the government are and whether there is an established schedule for the institutionalization process and the handing over of the government to civilians?

President: There can be no results regarding the national accord process since we have only issued an appeal for achieving a national accord. This is a long process that seeks to discuss and analyze those important issues that concern national sectors in general and through this discussion find the best solutions to them. Although we have discussed these issues with the different representative sectors since the beginning of this administration, it has not been until very recently that the national leadership has answered an appeal issued by the military junta in this regard. I believe that it is very important and positive to hold a dialogue, since by this means we shall be able to find solutions to national problems.

No one should ever feel that he is the master of the country, neither the government, the leaders, nor the people. We are all Argentines and together we must solve our problems so that we may look at the future with faith, hope, security and conviction. We are determined to achieve this goal and we believe that the proper tool for achieving it is through this dialogue which, as you know, is completely open and which is being promoted and encouraged as much as possible.

The second part of your questionis whether there is a schedule for the institutionalization process. I will say that there is still no schedule. A schedule to achieve the institutionalization of the country must meet, among others -- I say among others in case some are omitted -- two important requirements: The first is that it has to be technically feasible, and the second is that it has to satisfy the opinions of the majority of the national political spectrum. Obviously there are other conditions that must also be met. But I would say that these two requirements are the most important ones. We are constantly studying whether this is technically feasible. These studies are quite advanced, but they are not finished since there are many interpretations to be taken into account as well as needs. Moreover, we want this process to be as pure as possible.

So that it may satisfy the opinions of the majority of the national political sectors, we have been holding constant meetings with the different sectors to discuss the election schedule. Through the meetings that, together with the interior minister, we have held with representatives of the many national political parties, we have been able to obtain several opinions, and although there were some disagreements, all opinions are valid. The result of the evaluation of all these opinions will help us to establish an election schedule at the proper time.

Journalist: Finally, regarding the missing people during the war against subversion, we would like to know whether the government is studying the possibility of issuing a report that will satisfy expectations at both the national and international levels, since there have been reports that foreign countries are carrying out official investigations in this regard.

President: The issue of missing people is obviously not new, and since it concerns human lives, it is an extremely important one. The national government has been constantly concerned over this issue, and right now we are seeking the implementation of measures which in some way may assuage the pain caused by the physical disappearance of a loved one. May I remind you that at the proper time the national government issued a law that tried to alleviate this problem and that this law is fully in force. Moreover, I repeat that a proper solution to this issue is constantly being studied by the government. But we cannot ignore the fact that this issue has great political implications and that this is something that must be clearly and openly expressed without any fears, otherwise why would there be so much interest in it and why is the issue raised particularly abroad during political periods of great importance for the country? And this issue has indeed been raised during a very peculiar political period in the history of the country. To ignore this fact would be to ignore a very important aspect of the issue. However, the government has no intention of evading responsibility, but rather it is merely noting that by being aware of these political implications it will be able to find a more suitable solution to the problem.

If you will excuse me I would like to expand on this. This is not a new issue, and just as this issue is raised almost systematically internationally, as if it were something contagious and there was an obligation to raise it at a particular time, it is also raised at home. We read about the discovery of cemeteries with unidentified graves. I believe that there were no such discoveries which would lead one to believe that there were clandestine activities in cemeteries. There are many unidentified graves in many cemeteries throughout the country and the entire world. However, I am not saying that this is something normal or desired. I am merely pointing out that it exists.

But the fact that there have been a number of discoveries of unidentified graves at a specific period in the history of our country is worth mentioning.

Today we seem to have forgotten, however, that this period of history was a dramatic one, that every day newspaper headlines informed us about the casualties on both sides as a result of the clashes between the armed forces and clandestine subversives whose main concern -- and they admitted this -- was to remain clandestine. On one hand, it is a fortunate thing for people to have forgotten this. But on the other, it is unfortunate since by doing so we are giving way to some undesired situations.

Journalist: I wonder if it was because of this systematic interest in the case of missing persons that you refused to accept a meeting with President Ronald Reagan?

President: I could not have refused such a meeting since there was no such proposal. This was clearly explained in the United States by our foreign minister.

Journalist: I will also ask you two questions. What are the necessary conditions for the government to lift the state of siege? Do you believe that if this is done it will help the people to participate in a responsible manner as the church has proposed and to feel more confident about March 1984?

President: The lifting of the state of siege is no simple matter since it has many implications. As you know, there are many Argentines who are living in voluntary exile and with the lifting of the state of siege they would automatically return to the country. Among these Argentine citizens who are in exile are the leaders of those movements responsible for the bitter hours that Argentina has lived through and which we do not want to go through again. This is an issue of concern, and we want to handle it very carefully since we want to avoid problems. Moreover, may I remind you that this is a transition government trying to achieve a true institutionalization process. A truly constitutional government has the necessary constitutional tools, the measures that enable it to exercise power and to guarantee the exercise of individual freedoms. This transition government will strive to grant all possible freedoms. I believe that this has been proven extensively and on a daily basis. Since it is a government that [words indistinct] it lacks the necessary tools to guarantee the full enforcement of national institutions. There is no legislative branch in operation and therefore there is no public debate; there is no political party supporting the government, and consequently there is no party supporting government ideas and positions. This is why the government needs a tool which, used with prudence and at the proper time, will enable it to achieve the goal of establishing a constitutional government that will allow the exercise of all rights. But to do this, we must first correct the abuses of those who do not want this objective to be achieved.

Journalist: I would like to ask two questions. What is the present status of the negotiations or talks regarding the Beagle issue? How would you describe the present state of diplomatic relations with Great Britain since we are not at war but are not friends either?

President: Regarding the Beagle issue, the government has repeatedly expressed its confidence in the papal mediation. The government is truly convinced that the papal mediation is the proper tool that will lead to a solution of this problem or dispute with the sister nation of Chile. Through the papal mediation I am certain we will be able to achieve a proper solution for both countries. This may take some time. I am in no condition to predict when it will happen, but I reassert that the government has complete confidence in the papal mediation.

Regarding relations with Great Britain, you are well aware that there has been a resolution issued by the United Nations and another one by the OAS. We trust that through these organizations, the Malvinas Islands will be restored to Argentina as it should be so the problem may be overcome.

FORMER BOLIVIAN MINISTER GRANTED ASYLUM

PY272254 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1747 GMT 27 Nov 82

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 27 Nov (DYN) -- The Argentine Government has granted asylum to former Bolivian Interior Minister Col Luis Arce Gomez who had sought haven in Argentina after the military authorities of the neighboring country decided to turn the government over to politicians who were voted into office in the 1980 elections.

Arce Gomez's asylum request has been studied at the highest level, that is, by the military junta, and granted with the express recommendation that Arce Gomez refrain from engaging in activities which could jeopardize relations with the current regime of President Hernan Siles Zuazo.

Nothing has been said as to the situation of former Bolivian President Gen Luis Garcia Meza who also sought refuge in Argentina.

After being granted asylum, Arce Gomez will not be allowed to make political statements, intervene in Argentine domestic affairs or travel to Argentine provinces bordering with Bolivia.

UNREST OVER MUNICIPAL TAX INCREASES CONTINUES

PY261840 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 26 Nov 82 p 11

[Excerpts] (NA-DYN) -- The municipality of General Sarmiento decided yesterday not to collect recent increases in street lighting and cleaning taxes after a protest by neighbourhood organizations. The General Sarmiento government minister, Angel Tesi, announced after meeting with a delegation of residents and businessmen from the area that the municipal government "has decided not to collect the (tax) increases authorized by the provincial government."

About 400 people gathered yesterday morning in the central square of San Miguel to demonstrate peacefully in favour of a tax reduction. They were met by about 400 provincial police carrying tear gas launchers and truncheons who prevented the marchers from approaching city hall.

The municipality's decision and the San Miguel demonstration came on the heels of Wednesday's anti-tax demonstration by more than 10,000 people in Lanus, which resulted in violent incidents and police repression in which 40 people were injured and 12 arrested.

Yesterday, provincial government and police officials coincided in blaming the violence on a small group of provocateurs among the demonstrators.

Buenos Aires Governor Jorge Aguado said yesterday that the police's action in Lanus was justified because the disturbances were the result "of an obvious attempt to destabilize the government." He added that "there was no police repression. The police were forced to react." Reminded by reporters that the Lanus protest was only part of a broad movement around Buenos Aires, the governor said that "of 22 communities, only seven are protesting."

A communique from the provincial police issued yesterday blamed the violence on "infiltrated groups" which tried to "sow chaos and disorder at the Lanus march."

The communique made no mention of a police attack on a NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS newsagency photographer covering the demonstration, but a spokesman at the provincial police headquarters in La Plata announced that the incident "is being investigated." The spokesman read an announcement which stated that the police, "regret the incident and have ordered an investigation aimed at determining responsibilities."

Interior Minister Llamil Reston, who was briefed on the Lanus demonstration by Aguado yesterday, also blamed the violence and the other tax demonstrations on an "attempt to agitate."

In a related development, the municipality of San Martin announced that it has decided to suspend the collection of the controversial tax increases and that it will undertake a feasibility study to see if it can be abolished. Mayor Horacio Pendo announced the measure after meeting with representatives of neighbourhood organizations.

The municipality of Moron has also decided not to implement the tax increase.

In La Plata, provincial Government Minister Gaston Perez Izquierdo met with mayors from eight suburban Buenos Aires governments to discuss the tax increase and the widespread protest it has sparked.

NICOLAIDES PRIASES ARMY ROLE IN WAR ON TERRORISM

PY261821 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 26 Nov 82 p 1

[Text] (NA) -- Army Commander-in-Chief Cristino Nicolaides congratulated a group [of] retiring colonels and praised "their full exercise of their responsibilities at the moment of truth, which allowed the unprecedented defeat of subversion."

"The army fully assumes its responsibilities," Nicolaides said, "and reiterates its decision to fulfill without hesitation the high mission which it has been assigned."

The army commander spoke at a ceremony in the army command to honour 84 colonels who are going into retirement. He alluded [to] "those who served the (army) institution with loyalty and patriotism" and extended his praise to the wives of the retiring officers.

Nicolaides emphasized the colonels' and the army's role in the "unprecedented" victory over subversion, and said "they permit us to be ever ready to uphold the basic pillars of our national identity and of our beloved army."

DETAINEES AT DISPOSAL OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH RELEASED

PY240230 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1845 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 23 Nov (DYN) -- The government has ordered the release of 43 persons who had been detained under provisions of the state of siege and were at the disposal of the executive branch. The government has also ordered the parole of another 84 persons, among them the son of former Peron government Education Minister Jorge Taiana, who was paroled some months ago. In the case of some detainees, such as Manuel Armando Alfonso, their release was ordered a short time ago by federal judges who ruled that the prolonged arrests were "unreasonable."

These releases were announced today through a communique by the Interior Ministry in which it was noted that they were part of a program of releasing groups of detainees at the disposal of the executive branch every month until all of them are free by the time the new constitutional government comes to power.

SILES ZUAZO DEPARTS FOR UN 27 NOVEMBER

PY241815 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Nov 82

[Text] The constitutional president, Hernan Siles Zuazo, will travel on Saturday at 1800 [2200 GMT] to the headquarters of the United Nations. He will do so in the company of Foreign Minister Mario Velarde and other high-ranking officials, according to a report from authorized sources. The chief of state will remain in the United States until 1 December and he will return to La Paz at 0500 on Thursday, 2 December. During his absence, the responsibility for the country will be in the hands of Vice President Jaime Paz Zamora.

President Siles Zuazo will take advantage of his stay in the northern country to contact the chief of the U.S. Government, Ronald Reagan, and his top advisers in order to discuss bilateral matters.

The chief of state will speak before the 32d UN General Assembly on 30 November, according to what has been said in official circles. He will speak about the change that has occurred in Bolivia, which has led to the implementation of democracy, and he will also describe the serious economic and social situation that the country is experiencing as a result of the administration by de facto governments. The president will also reiterate Bolivia's position regarding its demand for a seacoast, which had very important support from the international community during the recent OAS meeting.

FOREIGN MINISTER ON SEA OUTLET, OTHER TOPICS

PY251337 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Nov 82

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Mario Velarde Dorado has stressed that the recent resolution that was approved by the 12th period of sessions of the OAS is a notable advance in the maritime cause, because it establishes the need of achieving a stable peace on the continent through a solution to this problem.

Velarde met with the press to give an explanation regarding the importance of this document and the ins and outs that surrounded the negotiations for achieving the largest possible support and consensus.

He asserted that the OAS resolution is unquestionably based on international law and, therefore, it has a moral value for Bolivia's cause of returning to the Pacific Ocean through a sovereign, free and useful corridor.

Answering questions put to him by the press, the foreign minister denied that the document had a [word indistinct] nature and he stressed that the government respects the reservations voiced by the Peruvian and Argentine Governments.

Regarding future negotiations that have been recommended by the OAS, Velarde said that there are several ways in which they can be carried out and he added that the sovereign and useful outlet must be defined first, to then see if it is convenient to renew relations with Chile. In this respect, he said that aspects regarding territorial compensation must not be taken into account in the negotiations, because background data already exists on this matter. Regarding economic compensation, he said that this is a topic that merits study and he stressed that water, for example, could be used for industrial ends with multilateral participation.

During the press conference he indicated that during his stay in New York and Washington he had contacted U.S. authorities to discuss matters pertaining to economic cooperation, saying that he will give a full report to the finance minister.

He also reported that President Hernan Siles Zuazo will travel this weekend to New York, where he will speak on Tuesday at 1030 at the 32d UN General Assembly. Velarde also said that the chief of state will not meet with President Ronald Reagan, although he did say that this will be defined within the next few hours.

Finally, he told the press that on Wednesday the president had invited the pope to visit Bolivia when he travels next year to Peru, Chile and Paraguay. The invitation was handed to him yesterday afternoon by the Bolivian ambassador to the Vatican, Ernesto Ruiz.

TWO MEN ATTACK ACTING PRESIDENT PAZ ZAMORA

PY282105 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2030 GMT 28 Nov 82

[Text] La Paz, 28 Nov (LATIN-REUTER) -- It was officially reported today that Bolivian Acting President Jaime Paz Zamora was attacked by two civilians today, one of them an Argentine citizen.

According to the press adviser of the vice president, the two civilians identified as Carlos Fajardo and the Argentine Mario Migola jumped on Paz Zamora when he was leaving the presidential palace this noon. The two individuals were immediately arrested by the security staff of the acting president and are now being questioned at the Interior Ministry, according to Marlene Berrios, the official spokesman for the vice president's office.

Paz Zamora last night took over as acting constitutional president of Bolivia shortly before Persident Hernan Siles Zuazo left for the United Nations in New York.

The government did not specify if the two individuals were armed. Spokesman Berrios charged that the Argentine citizen was a member of the paramilitary, irregular groups which Col Luis Arce Gomez organized during his tenure as interior minister of Gen Luis Garcia Meza's government. According to Berrios, unofficial information was obtained yesterday concerning a plan against the life of Paz Zamora, one of the three leaders of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR). Berrios indicated that Mignola [as received] probably entered Bolivia as an Argentine refugee. It is expected that the Interior Ministry will issue a report on the investigations underway in the near future.

FOREIGN MINISTER ON TRADE PROBLEMS WITH U.S.

PY260111 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 23 Nov 82 p 7

[Excerpts] In statements to O GLOBO regarding bilateral relations between the United States and Brazil, Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro asserted that "there are no problems over vital interests between the two countries." The minister believes that there is room to accommodate the interests of the two countries and this is what the Brazilian Government hopes to do during President Ronald Reagan's visit to Brazil at the end of the month. According to the minister, Brazil and the United States have problems reaching agreements over worldwide issues such as the establishment of a new international economic order. Guerreiro is aware, however, of the U.S. willingness to negotiate specific issues which require short- and medium-term solutions.

As an example, the foreign minister mentioned the price of coffee and pointed out that the United States is cooperating to reach an international agreement in this regard. However, the foreign minister admitted that it is much more difficult to reach an agreement when negotiations refer to worldwide issues which involve certain principles or new political proposals.

According to the minister, this difficulty becomes evident when talks refer to the establishment of a new international economic order or during negotiations on worldwide topics, which is when Brazil meets U.S. opposition. Guerreiro explained that the philosophy of the new economic order is that in the economic relationship between rich and poor countries there should be a better understanding of the specific needs of the developing countries. The minister believes that this means negotiating new mechanisms which will prevent large fluctuations in the prices for raw materials. He asserted that the prices of all basic Brazilian products are dropping in the market.

Guerreiro criticized the United States for having adopted protectionist measures which harm Brazil's exports of raw materials. He pointed out that there is no underdeveloped country capable of competing if it has to grant its producers subsidies which amount to twice and three times the price at which their products will be sold. Due to a law which the United States has implemented to protect its producers even corn syrup, which costs two and one-half to three times more than it costs to produce sugar cane, competes with sugar on the U.S. market. This type of problem is incompatible with a new international economic order.

According to the minister, it is wrong to believe that the protectionist measures which would favor developing countries would be unfair for the developed countries.

Guerreiro ended by stating that if the objective is to increase the level of trade and expand the world economy, everyone, even the industrialized countries, will benefit.

NEGOTIATIONS TO BEGIN FOR $6 BILLION IMF LOAN

PY270303 Paris AFP in Spanish 0129 GMT 27 Nov 82

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 26 Nov (AFP) -- Next Monday Brazil will initiate negotiations with the IMF to obtain $6 billion, it was announced tonight in Rio de Janeiro. The announcement, which was released by a television station and a national news agency, was made in Geneva by Finance Minister Ernane Galveas, who is attending the GATT ministerial conference.

VICE PRESIDENT ON NEXT PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION

PY261347 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 26 Nov 82

[Text] Regarding the next presidential succession, Vice President Aureliano Chaves has noted that the process must be led by President Joao Figueiredo. Meanwhile [words indistinct] must keep in mind the results of the elections since it has changed the national political picture.

According to Aureliano Chaves, the election of Figueiredo's successor must be the result of a national consensus. Asked about Brizola's election, the vice president noted that undoubtedly Brizola will assume his duties on 15 March.

ELECTION STILL UNDECIDED IN FIVE STATES

PY261538 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 26 Nov 82

[Text] There is still no specific date for ending the vote count in Rio de Janeiro state. (?Unofficially), there are two (?possibilities). The first, according to the vote counting coordinator, Judge [name indistinct] (Goncalvez), is for next Sunday; and the other is by 1 December [words indistinct].

The last bulletin issued by the Rio de Janeiro Regional Electoral Board reported Leonel Brizola's victory over PDS [Social Democratic Party] candidate Moreira Franco.

Although the vote count is still undecided in five Brazilian states, including Acre where the PDS is winning by a slight margin, in Brasilia people are already talking about the state elections for 1986.

[Begin relay from Brasilia] Yesterday Sao Paulo Deputy Mario Hato proposed Sao Paulo Deputy Governor-elect (Orestes Quercia) as candidate for governor of Sao Paulo in 1986 to succeed Governor-elect Franco Montoro. Hato noted that (Quercia) is the best qualified person to dispute the governorship representing the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party] in the next elections.

Although people are already talking about the 1986 elections, the present election is still undecided in five states. In Mato Grosso do Sul, the PMDB is still ahead. Candidate Wilson Martins has 196,172 votes, while PDS candidate Jose Elias Moreira has 187,987 votes. The difference favoring the PMDB candidate totals 8,185 votes.

In Mato Grosso, the PDS is ahead. Its candidate, Julio Campos, has 190,787 votes, while PMDB candidate Raymundo Pombo has 177,126 votes. The difference favoring the PDS candidate totals 13,661 votes.

In Para, the PMDB is leading. Jader Barbalho has 347,480 votes, while PDS candidate Oziel Carneiro has 307,286 votes. The difference favoring PMDB candidate Barbalho totals 40,194 votes.

In Pernambuco, the PDS is ahead. Roberto Magalhaes has 832,781 votes, while PMDB candidate Marcos Freire has 740,852 votes. The difference favoring the PDS totals (?91,929).

In Acre, [words indistinct] in slight difference in favor of the PDS candidate. [end relay]

BETANCUR LETTER ASKS REAGAN TO HELP WITH IDB

PA272110 Paris AFP in Spanish 2019 GMT 27 Nov 82

[Text] Bogota, 27 Nov (AFP) -- Conservative Colombian President Belisario Betancur today asked his U.S. counterpart, Ronald Reagan, who is scheduled to arrive in Bogota on Friday, 3 December, to agree to a replacement of the IDB's capital resources before the forthcoming expiration date.

A few hours ago the Colombian head of state addressed a message to Reagan noting that the United States is solely responsible for the failure to reach such an agreement due to U.S. inflexibility.

He noted that the IDB's institutional deterioration has heightened the climate of concern among Latin American countries over their serious economic situation and added that he does not view favorable the program calling for a withdrawal of loans to these nations by the bank.

The letter stated that an attempt has been made through the usual means to reach an agreement between the Latin American countries and the United States in view of the inflexible U.S. position.

He noted that Colombia is the country that least requires the resources, "but the region needs them desperately."

Betancur added that the region has received from the United States "continuous theoretical assurances that it wants to be flexible, but has also received constant, actual displays of inflexibility and lack of understanding."

He asked Reagan to help pave the way to an agreement on this issue and noted that his meeting with Reagan in Bogota on Friday will be a good opportunity "to intervene at the presidential level to end the stalemate in a negotiation whose failure would no doubt seriously harm inter-American relations."

He noted that "only the United States has tried to move away" from those agreements.

Finally, Betancur told Reagan in his letter that according to liberator Simon Bolivar "a good friend is one who tells the truth."

GOVERNMENT CONSIDERING RELATIONS WITH CUBA

PA260434 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 2330 GMT 25 Nov 82

[Text] Former Colombian President Misael Pastrana Borrero said that the Colombian Government is considering the possibility of resuming relations with Cuba. However, Pastrana Borrero said that he does not think that this will be done immediately. He added that Colombia will join the bloc of nonaligned developing countries whether it has relations with Cuba or not.

BATEMAN DENIES CUBAN SUPPORT FOR M-19

PA270258 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 26 Nov 82

[Text] Jaime Bateman, leader of the M-19 (19 April Movement) guerrilla organization, has denied U.S. Government charges that his organization is supported by the Cuban Government.

In a radio interview, Bateman said that the M-19 purchased weapons with funds obtained as ransom from the previous Colombian Government for the release of diplomats kidnapped at the Dominican Embassy in 1980.

According to Bateman's statement to the CARACOL network, the U.S. Congress has created a scandal by claiming to have proof of support given by Cuba and Colombian drug traffickers. To claim that the M-10 depends upon Cuba and that the Colombian mafia is financing us is simply an attempt to discredit the M-19, the guerrilla leader declared. Bateman said that it is of no concern to him whether the U.S. Government submits evidence against Cuban leaders in connection with these charges, adding that he can state with assurance that his organization purchases its weapons with funds obtained from the Colombian Government when the M-19 occupied the Dominican Embassy in Colombia.

AMNESTY FOR PANAMANIAN, COSTA RICAN PRISONERS

PA290349 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Nov 82

[Text] Courts of justice in the Colombian cities of Pasto and Villavicencio today ordered the release of 76 members of the 19 April Movement, M-19, and the Peoples Liberation Army. The decision will benefit five Panamanian students as well as a Costa Rican student. It is based on the amnesty law implemented a week ago after approval by the Senate and the Chamber of Representatives.

The Pasto court suspended the sentences resulting from all military trials against 65 members of the M-19 who were captured 2 years ago in the southern part of the country, near the border with Ecuador, when they were trying to bring in weapons.

The foreigners who will be freed in the next few hours and deported are Costa Rican Syndel Bedoya and Panamanians Roberto Garrido, Ricardo Quintero, Teodoro Hunt, Pablo Fernandez and Mario Lopez. Lawyer Eduardo Umana Mendoza asked Colombian President Belisario Betancur to conduct an administrative investigation on retired Gen Luis Ernesto Ordonez, Colombian ambassador in Panama, who made a statement to the effect that it was possible that the Panamanian students could be murdered.

SURRENDER OF GUERRILLA 'LEADER' REPORTED AS HOAX

PA270432 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 23 Nov 82 pp 1-A, 6-A

[By German Acero Espinosa]

[Excerpts] A habitual liar, who has fooled the authorities on more than one occasion, hoodwinked the press into believing that he was an important guerrilla leader who had decided to accept the benefits of the amnesty.

Ricardo Talero Cruz, who claimed to be "Commander Diego" of the Army of National Liberation [ELN], is nothing but a common criminal who has "surrendered" to the army more than 90 times, claiming to be one of the most important guerrilla leaders.

At his last appearance in the community of La Dorada in Caldas, Talero said that he was an architect and an ELN commander, announcing that in the next few hours 24 members of the "Domingo Lain" column would surrender.

The authorities explained that the false "commander" has never been in the guerrilla movement and that his record is based solely on lies. They added that he has deceived military commanders on more than one occasion, claiming to have valuable information about various subversive groups.

GOVERNMENT CONDEMNS ATTACK ON ISRAELI EMBASSY

PA262331 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2148 GMT 26 Nov 82

[Text] Quito, 26 Nov (EFE) -- The Ecuadorean Government "most vehemently" condemned today's terrorist attack in Quito in which a bomb exploded at the Israeli Embassy, killing one person and seriously injuring two more.

The Ecuadorean Foreign Ministry issued a communique in which it says that "relations between Ecuador and Israel are absolutely normal and are based on mutual respect, friendship and cooperation." The government ministry has issued instructions so that this terrorist act will not go unpunished, the official communique says.

The terrorist attack occurred at 1050 (1550 GMT). when a powerful bomb exploded in the building housing the Israeli Embassy.

A policeman on guard in the building was killed and another was taken to the military hospital in Quito, seriously injured. Police sources told EFE that there is little hope for his life, since he lost both legs, an arm and his right eye.

A woman was also seriously injured by the explosion.

Israeli Ambassador Comments

PA261819 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1748 GMT 26 Nov 82

[Excerpt] Quito, 26 Nov (EFE) -- Eli 'Ezer 'Armon, Israeli ambassador to Ecuador, told EFE today that he does not want to assign blame for the placing of the bomb in the embassy building, "but it is not difficult to guess who did it."

'Armon labeled the attack a "crime," deplored the fact that there had been innocent victims and confirmed that none of the embassy personnel had been injured.

The ambassador added that the embassy had not received any threat.

The bomb, which exploded early this morning, was hidden inside a briefcase that had been left on the bottom floor of the building. One of the policemen guarding the building attempted to take it out to the street, but it blew up in his hands, killing him.

ALFARIST FRONT CONVENTION REELECTS LEADER

PA240133 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Text] Cecilia Calderon de Castro was reelected leader of the Alfarist Radical Front [FRA] at the party's national convention held in Machala this weekend. A total of 250 votes from delegates of the country's 20 provinces reelected her as leader of this party.

In her speech Calderon de Castro harshly criticized the present regime, describing it as unable to deliver the changes promised in the electoral campaign.

The political parties are already preparing for the 1984 electoral campaigns. The national conventions of the FRA and the Democratic Party were devoted to an analysis of the country's political and economic situation and to outlining the steps that will be taken in the electoral campaigns.

PCD TAKES NEW NAME; PROPOSED BANNER CHALLENGED

PA190441 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Nov 82

[Text] Since there are no objections and legal procedures and the law so permit, as of today People, Change and Democracy, PCD, will be called People, Change, Democracy, Roldosist People's Party.

PCD secretary general Ernesto Buenano Cabrera made the announcement. He also reported that the picture of the late President Jaime Roldos and of his wife Marta Bucaram de Roldos will appear on the party's banner.

Abdala Bucaram Ortiz, brother of the late first lady of the republic, Marta Bucaram de Roldos, lodged a protest at the Surpeme Electoral Council against the PCD using the pictures of the late president and his wife as a symbol on the party's banner. Bucaram Ortiz claims he has the authorization of the late president's children to use their parent's picture for the party he is forming: The Ecuadorean Roldosist Party.

MARXIST-ORIENTED WORKERS UNION FOUNDED

PA222229 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0227 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Text] Quito, 21 Nov (EFE) — The founding of the [Ecuadorean] General Workers Union (UGTE), which has a Marxist orientation, marks the fifth labor federation created in Ecuador, a country going through the early phases of its industrial development and that has a relatively low number of laborers.

The other unions are the Confederation of Ecuadorean Workers (CTE) and the Ecuadorean Confederation of Catholic Workers (CEDOC), which are of communist and Socialist orientation, respectively; the Ecuadorean Confederation of Free Union Organizations (CEOLS), which is affiliated with the AFL-CIO and is of Social Democratic Orientation; and a separate branch of the CEDOC linked to thie Christian Democrats.

The new union, according to leader Patricio Aldaz, a metal worker, will try to recover for the workers and peasants the labor leadership which, he said, until now has been in the hands of a "bureaucracy of lawyers."

Aldaz referred specifically to the CTE, CEDOC and CEOLS, which have formed the United Workers Front (FUT). He says the FUT represents about 300,000 workers and has gained strength in the last 2 months with two warning strikes to demand wage increases and to protest the increase in the cost of fuel and wheat declared by the government in the middle of October.

However, the FUT was harshly criticized when it called off an "indefinite" general strike that was to start on 8 November and negotiated with the regime of President Oswaldo Hurtado, who offered to study some of their requests.

The founding congress of the UGTE, held yesterday and today at the legislative palace, gave as its main objectives an increase in the minimum wage, job stability and rejection of the government's economic policies.

OPPOSITION LEADS IN PRELIMINARY RESULTS

PY290215 Paris AFP in Spanish 0113 GMT 29 Nov 82

[Text] Montevideo, 28 Nov (AFP) -- According to unofficial figures -- 2 hours after the vote count started -- the opposition factions of the two traditional political parties, the Blanco (Conservative) and Colorado (Liberal) were leading the internal party elections held today.

Of the 40,000 votes counted so far, the Blanco factions Movement for the Fatherland and National Rocha Movement, which had been led by the now in exile former presidential candidate Wilson Ferreira Aldunate, had obtained 72 percent of the votes cast for the Blanco Party.

Within the Colorado Party, the faction of lawyer Julio Sanguinetti leads with 39.7 percent, while that of former President Jorge Pacheco obtained 25 percent and Enrique Tarigo's faction got 22.5 percent.

The number of blank votes was considerable -- 11.5 percent of the total.

PARTY FACTION DENIES LINKS WITH FOREIGN GROUPS

PY282040 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Nov 82

[Text] The ACF [of the Movement for the Fatherland and the Rocha National Movement] list had issued a resolution on political issues, ACF's press secretary (Manuel Singlet) reports:

[Begin (Singlet) recording] The ACF hereby states: 1) They are not engaged in agreements, pacts, negotiations, ties, complicity or any kind of relationship -- either inside or outside the country — with either leftist, centrist or rightist parties, sectors, currents or groups. 2) Our sector opposed the banning of parties for the elections, while those who sponsored such a measure are now regretting its consequences. 3) It should not have been necessary to comment on the above, since our position has been thoroughly and publicly explained by professor Juan Pivel Devoto, our main candidate. However, the statement made yesterday by those who would not admit another electoral defeat -- even though contending that they respect the majority decision -- forces us to deny such slanderous remarks. Our leaders and candidates are widely known and none of them cherishes ideals other than those of the national party. 4) The citizenry is well aware of the firmness of the democratic principles we advocate. We need neither (?outside supporters) for gaining the majority's support for our ideas, nor do we need to imitate third parties in order to exercise our rights or defend our ideas. Tactical (?maneuvering) by bad losers will not make us change our aspirations for concord and peace, which will be judged by ballot boxes and history. [signed] Movement for the Fatherland and Rocha National Movement, 26 November 1982 [end recording]

PESO TO FLOAT TO DETERMINE EXCHANGE POLICY

PY261300 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1235 GMT 26 Nov 82

[Text] Montevideo, 26 Nov (LATIN-REUTER) -- The government has ordered a bank holiday today and it has let the Uruguayan peso float freely as related to the dollar in order to determine later on the exchange policy that will be definitely implemented. This was announced early this morning by the National Public Relations Directorate.

SOLIDARITY GROUPS SCORE REAGAN L.A. VISIT

PA290442 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 29 Nov 82

[Text] In Mexico City more than 100 unions, political parties and soldiarity organizations have denounced the possible consequences of U.S. intervention in Central America, which could reach and sweep over the Caribbean countries and Mexico. In a lengthy communique carried by the Mexican newspapers, the signatory organizations give their full support to the FMLN and Revolutionary Democratic Front, FDR, proposal for a dialogue and state that a war against Nicaragua would open the doors for intervention by U.S. troops in Central America, which would also bring serious problems for Mexico's national sovereignty.

The document includes a lengthy report on the U.S. interventionist policy and calls for repudiation of President Reagan's visit to Central America to be held on 4 December.

The World Front for Solidarity with El Salvador, Mexico chapter, has given its complete support to the proposal made by the FMLN-FDR and at the same time repudiated President Reagan's visit to Central America.

In a document published by this solidarity front they state that the proposed dialogue is the only way to outline a way to safeguard the interests of the people and the nation, decreasing the social, political and economic cost of the struggle.

GUESTS FOR DE LA MADDRID SWEARING IN NOTED

PA290217 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0108 GMT 29 Nov 82

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 28 Nov (EFE) -- The new Mexican president, Miguel de la Madrid, will be sworn in on 1 December during an austere ceremony to which only 60 foreign guests have been invited.

De la Madrid decided to begin his term by giving an example of austerity, and he did not invite any presidents because of the expense this would entail. He has also said that those who do come will have to pay their airfare and pay for their stay from their own pockets.

However, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, Cuban vice president; Alejandro Orfila, OAS secretary general; Mario Velarde, Bolivian foreign minister; Enrique Tierno Galvan, mayor of Madrid; and Gabriel Garcia Marquez, 1982 Nobel prize winner for literature, will be present in Mexico City on 1 December.

The official representatives for the 137 countries with which Mexico has relations will in most cases be the ambassadors accredited to the Mexican Government.

Jose Figueres and Daniel Oduber, former Costa Rican presidents; Ernesto Cardenal, Nicaraguan culture minister; and Guillermo Ungo, president of the Salvadoran Revolutionary Democratic Front, FDR, will also be present at the ceremony.

BRIEFS

HONDURAS, BOTSWANA, OMAN AMBASSADORS -- The ambassadors to Mexico from Honduras, Sonia Canales de Mendieta; from Botswana, Dr Moteane John Melamu; and Oman, who has his headquarters in Washington, have presented their credentials to Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo in separate ceremonies. [Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1602 GMT 24 Nov 82 FL]

COSTA RICA

REPORTAGE ON UPCOMING RONALD REAGAN VISIT

Monge on Protest Signs

PA270235 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 27 Nov 82

[Text] Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge has said that we can affirm that very few countries in the world have a penal system like ours, and that there are no political prisoners here, as the communist weekly LIBERTAD has charged. Monge said this is an insult to Costa Rican democracy, because no one is in prison here because of his ideas. All ideologies are respected here. Those in prison are there because they have committed crimes punishable under our laws; to charge that there are political prisoners in Costa Rica is beyond imagination, Monge Alvarez said.

To counter the international campaign being waged by the communists about the alleged existence of political prisoners and violations of human rights, President Monge said that international human rights organizations have been invited to the country. We want them to come and see what is really happening here. The prisoners they describe as political prisoners are not in jail because of their ideas, but because they committed crimes punishable by law.

Monge also said that international organizations have been asked to show solidarity with Costa Rica.

Asked about the groups that have painted signs on the streets protesting President Ronald Reagan's visit, President Monge said that everyone knows who are responsible for painting those signs. They are the same ones who supported the invasion of Afghanistan, the disbanding of the free labor unions in Poland and the smashing of the Hungarian workers revolution in 1956. They are the same ones who are speaking of peace here in Costa Rica, where our democracy allows them to make this kind of protest, Monge added.

Monge on Nicaraguan Comments

PA261412 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Nov 82

[Text] President Luis Alberto Monge has said that Costa Rica has never protested or said anything when leaders of communist countries arrived in Nicaragua; thus, we are surprised by the statements of Nicaraguan Government officials regarding U.S. President Ronald Reagan's visit to our country.

Monge reiterated that the U.S. President's visit is a recognition of the democratic and republican system we presently have in Costa Rica. He added that it is also a reiteration of the traditional friendship existing between the two countries. Any other reasons mentioned are false and are an attempt to reduce the importance of President Reagan's visit to a democratic and free country, President Monge said.

Former Minister's Rejection

PA270411 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 27 Nov 82

[Text] Jose Rafael Cordero, former Costa Rican minister of the Presidency, said today that Reagan is coming to Central America on a mission of war.

During an interview direct from San Jose, Costa Rica, the former minister said that imperialism wants to use that country's economic situation in a plan to isolate the Sandinist people's revolution. Reagan's visit to the region is like pouring salt on an open wound, Cordero said.

[Begin recording] [Cordero] I have voiced my opinion publicly here in Costa Rica. I believe that Reagan's visit at this time is inopportune and negative. I believe this because this is nothing but a mission of war. He is coming to encourage all of the efforts to isolate the Sandinist revolution from Central America, taking advantage of the economic crisis being experienced by these countries, especially by Costa Rica. Using the pretext of financial aid, he is trying to get support for that campaign to isolate Nicaragua.

[Question] Do you believe this is intended to pressure the region's heads of state?

[Answer] Exactly. This is made even more obvious by Reagan's decision to meet with that strange president that they have in El Salvador, a president who does not rule. The meaning that they wanted to give to this meeting -- "a demonstration of support for Costa Rican democracy" -- is merely a pretext that has now been made clear, since he has decided to meet with the other heads of state as well.

[Question] What country do you believe is being openly provoked by Reagan's visit to Central America?

[Answer] I believe, as a large sector of Costa Ricans who have not been able to voice their opinion believes, that this visit is intended to isolate the Sandinist revolution, to create problems for the Sandinist revolution. Maybe not so much now, since so many charges have been leveled. They may have reversed their decision to invade Nicaragua, so it probably doesn't involve this anymore. Perhaps they will now try to continue to create problems at the border with Honduras and to stimulate actions from Costa Rica, so that the Nicaraguan Government will have to make extra efforts and expenditures and will not be able to carry out its social programs because of the attention it must give to its borders; they can act to destabilize the country in this way. This could be what they are thinking of now, but the meeting is inopportune because President Reagan's behavior in the Malvinas war is still too fresh a memory. He abandoned the Latin American countries to side with the United Kingdom. From every point of view, this trip is untimely.

[Question] Could this involve a front against Nicaragua?

[Answer] This is what they are trying to create, especially now that they have proposed the so-called peace movement and I don't know what else. All of this is not intended to create peace but to isolate Nicaragua.

[Question] Besides the fact that it is inopportune, how dangerous do you think this visit is?

[Answer] As we say, it is like pouring salt on an open wound. Our peoples are holding a big grudge. The people have already awakened. Most of the nations are aware. Our people want to control their own destiny and this visit contradicts everything we hope for. We want our own government, our own system and not impositions, which is all that we have received from the United States throughout our history.

[Question] As a Costa Rican citizen and as a member of this Central American country, what can you tell your country and Central America?

[Answer] I have much faith in the people. They are becoming aware of their situation. It is no longer an issue of whether or not you are a communist. This is something that has already been transcended. The peoples are aware of their position and they want to control their own destiny. The Salvadoran revolution becomes stronger each day and there is no going back. The same is true of the revolutionary movements in Guatemala. Our peoples have awakened and all that these people do is to apply pressure on us. However, this only makes our people unite and seek further awareness and unity. [end recording]

Government Minister Remarks

PA280300 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 23 Nov 82 p 10A

[Text] Government Minister Alfonso Carro said yesterday that strict control will be maintained on the presence of leftwing or rightwing extremists in the country who attempt to provoke problems.

He admitted having broken tradition a few days ago when he prevented Marxist labor leaders from coming to the congress of the United Workers Federation (CUT). Nonetheless, he affirmed that in view of the "extremely grave" situation posed by the CUT with the Atlantic banana strike, it was not deemed advisable to permit the international communist leaders to enter the country.

"We could not adopt two positions simultaneously. Either the confrontation was complete and the ministers remained consistent with President Monge's stand, or we engaged in a serious contradiction with him," the minister stated.

He indicated that the ban preventing the communists from entering will not be permanent. "I do not want to be arbitrary. I will act likewise against extreme rightwing ideological elements who present unsettling possibilities or represent a threat to the country," he stressed.

According to Minister Carro, these actions run parallel to the organization of a modern police corps, with which the state will be able to counter subversive political movements, especially terrorism.

He indicated that the National Security Council is giving special attention to these objectives, and "we have taken important strides," he said. He added that they have obtained the cooperation of friendly countries on the subject.

He noted that effective 1 December controls will be intensified on the visas required for Central Americans to enter our territory. It is anticipated that the gazette will publish the decree on this measure tomorrow.

Minister Carro stated that in addition to preventing the arrival of a large communist labor delegation, he was opposed to the arrival of North Korean agents. According to reports, they come annually to hold lectures. Another reason it was not deemed advisable to permit those persons to enter was because they were coming from Nicaragua.

In conformity with the circumstances, the possible granting of permits to leftwingers linked to extreme ideologies will be analyzed. This will be a general action, Carro indicated.

He warned that all potentially dangerous persons will be barred entry.

Measures have been tightened on the occasion of the visit by U.S. President Ronald Reagan on 3 December. Nevertheless, the government official added that it will be standard policy to prevent the entry of groups that attempt to stage attacks against members of private enterprises, state officials or visiting dignitaries.

This is the premise on which the organization of the state security police apparatus is based. Besides the existing relations with the International Police (Interpol) in the struggle against common crime, efforts are being made to strengthen it in matters of exchange of information on dangerous persons in the political field, specifically terrorists. The new security service will be coordinated by personnel of the Government and Public Security Ministries.

Meanwhile, close watch is being maintained on a group of Central Americans who might cause security problems. The group includes Salvadorans and persons from other neighboring countries. This control includes the visa requirements, which have elicited negative reactions in the rest of the nations of the area.

'Accolade for Democracy'

PA280118 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 23 Nov 82 p 14A

["Good Morning" column: "Behind a Visit"]

[Text] The repeated charges by the Nicaraguan Government of nine commanders about an imminent large-scale armed attack from Honduras lose weight as the days pass. They do fulfill, at least partially, the purpose of justifying the accelerated arms buildup of the neighboring country, holding up the phantom of the alleged aggression. Also, the announcement of the visit by U.S. President Ronald Reagan to Tegucigalpa in the first days of December does not appear the proper background for the Honduran Government to sponsor a large-scale conflict.

What does appear to have no room for doubt is the fact that the U.S. President's stopover in the Honduran capital basically obeys the firm purpose of Washington to bolster Roberto Suazo's government in view of the reiterated attempts of the extreme left to sow chaos in that country. It is not necessary that one study at Salamanca [university in Spain] to realize that the Managua regime has much to do with the plans to destabilize Honduras. Hence, the world witnesses how Tegucigalpa is returning the ball with a backhand, being tolerant of the moves of the anti-Sandinist forces. However, to go from that to a formal invasion is a large jump, and everything seemingly indicates that the current moderate belligerance will not go beyond that, no matter how much the commanders insist on it.

The fact that Costa Rica and Honduras are included in Reagan's itinerary is an accolade for democracy and not, as the commanders and their obsequious servants try to depict it, the prelude to D-Day. War, which is always repudiated, is a luxury that none of the nations of the area can afford, regardless of the armament-oriented interests of the conflicting hegemonic sectors. No matter how underdeveloped we are in the region, we are not blind.

LIBERTAD: 'Historic Shame'

PA282344 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2306 GMT 28 Nov 82

[Text] The communist weekly newspaper LIBERTAD, organ of the Costa Rican Popular Vanguard Party, today carried an editorial saying that "Ronald Reagan's visit will be an historic shame to our country."

The official mouthpiece of the Costa Rican communists says that Reagan comes "at a time when his government is rapidly sinking," and when he has announced that he will invest $26 billion in installing 100 new nuclear-warhead missiles.

LIBERTAD says that the fact that Reagan will meet in San Jose with Salvadoran President Alvaro Magana, whom it labels as fascist, and that he will then proceed to Honduras where he will meet with "Guatemalan dictator General Rios Montt," is "a bloody mockery of our humble Foreign Ministry."

Costa Rican communists claim that all this "is a most ridiculous way to pull our leg," and is not a prize for Costa Rican democracy.

SPOKESMAN ON PROPOSED TALKS WITH NICARAGUA

PA281446 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1330 GMT 28 Nov 82

[Text] According to a ranking Costa Rican Government spokesman, Nicaraguan Government leaders have proposed bilateral talks with Costa Rica Government representatives in an effort to ease the tension between the two neighboring countries.

However, several members of President Luis Alberto Monge's government refuse to attend such meetings in view of the campaign of verbal attacks against our government.

As long as the Nicaraguan radio continues to attack Costa Rica, there will be no bilateral talks, the spokesman said. He added that the idea has been turned down due to reports received here about verbal attacks against Costa Rica broadcast by the Nicaraguan radio. The spokesman pointed out that the Costa Rican Government demands that Nicaragua show more respect toward our country before the proposed talks can begin.

EL SALVADOR

REACTION TO UPCOMING RONALD REAGAN TOUR

Magana Meeting Topics

PA272157 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 27 Nov 82 pp 5, 30

[Text] Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena and Minister of the Presidency Francisco Jose Guerrero will accompany Salvadoran President Alvaro Magana on his visit to Costa Rica on 4 December to meet with President Reagan.

During a breakfast in San Jose with President Reagan and Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge, President Magana will have the opportunity to speak regarding the economic and military problems affecting Central America and especially regarding U.S. aid to El Salvador.

Sources have said it is very possible that President Magana, during a private meeting with President Reagan, will discuss specific subjects regarding El Salvador, but the sources had no information on what these subjects would be.

The sources added that relations between this country and the United States have been seriously affected in the past few weeks because of U.S. threats to stop economic aid if the human rights situation in El Salvador is not resolved favorably.

According to reports, President Reagan must certify to the U.S. Congress before 28 January that abuses of human rights in El Salvador have decreased, so that the military aid to this country can be renewed.

The sources added that the previous certification, made 4 months ago, did not greatly satisfy some U.S. senators and congressmen. However, U.S. military men and diplomats as well as important sectors of the Salvadoran Army believe that U.S. military aid is indispensable "to counteract the risk of Marxist expansion in Central America." This year the United States has supplied war materiel to El Salvador, as well as training special battalions; it currently has approximately 52 military advisers in Salvadoran territory. According to reports, all this costs $81 million.

Aside from this military aid, El Salvador this year has received more than $300 million in aid and loans granted by the United States, including $75 million as part of the Caribbean Basin plan.

Even though the White House has openly given its military and economic support to President Magana, the U.S. Administration still has not delivered radar and sophisticated weapons that can hit a target during night operations. Salvadoran military officers believe these weapons are essential to put an end to the guerrillas.

Official sources have said that if the Salvadoran Army were to receive radar from the United States, it could control the supply of weapons by air to the guerrillas, who receive such supplies via airplanes and helicopters from Nicaragua.

Businessmen Seek Meeting

PA262157 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 25 Nov 82 p 2

[Excerpt] A communique issued by the National Association of Private Enterprise (ANEP) reads as follows:

"The leaders of the Central American private enterprise sectors are hoping for a private meeting with President Ronald Reagan.

"This was said by ANEP President Eduardo Melendez, who added that the Federation of Private Enterprise of Central America, Fedeprica, on behalf of the isthmus' free enterprise, has requested a meeting with the President of the United States.

"He added that the request for the meeting was made on the occasion of President Reagan's trip to several Latin American countries early in December, including Honduras and Costa Rica, the latter being where President Reagan will meet with Salvadoran President Alvaro Magana."

'Affront to Democracies'

PA281756 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1400 GMT 28 Nov 82

[Text] Due to President Reagan's upcoming visit to Honduras the government has intensified its terror tactics and so far the police security forces have made 175 arbitrary arrests.

The international press has indicated that the U.S. President's decision to meet with the dictatorships of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras represents endorsement of the most bloodthirsty regimes and is an affront to the democracies of Latin America.

Venceremos Comments

PA290508 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 29 Nov 82

[Excerpts] violations of human rights, genocide, torture, terrorism by the state, persecution and the murder of thousands of Guatemalan citizens are the most outstanding characteristics of the present dictatorial government as well as the recent governments in Guatemala.

Repression is the only alternative that the Guatemalan Army has suggested in view of the advance of the revolutionary process. In the political sphere this advance means the deterioration of the government's power, and means the decision by the people to conquer, through their own means, their human dignity, justice and democracy. However, U.S. imperialism, the Guatemalan Army and sectors of the dominating groups [passage indistinct]. The new military junta tried, in accordance with U.S. orders, to create a healthy image for the regime before the world, but in reality this is impossible. The Guatemalan people can no longer be fooled because on a daily basis they experience terror and persecution as well as the massacre of whole towns by the cruelest and most unimaginable methods.

This type of government is precisely the type of government that is supported and sponsored by Washington. Government aggression and repression has a [words indistinct] U.S. imperialism. The policy outlined by the United States is a warmongering policy. With the present U.S. Administration, the possibilities of an armed confrontation and even a world war have increased.

For the Central American peoples, Reagan's visit means support for the bloody regimes of the area; greater chances that troops will land in the region; the consolidation of the aggression against the Sandinist revolution; a continuation of hunger, oppression and terror; as well as coordination among the armies of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras against the revolutionary movements of the peoples. It means more weapons, more airplanes, more advisers in the art of killing for the Salvadoran fascist regime, for the Rios Montt criminal government and for the most reactionary sectors of the Honduran Army. This is what the democratic and the revolutionary sectors of the world cannot tolerate. They must repudiate Reagan's visit because it is criminal, insolent and intervenes in internal matters that only concern our peoples.

COPREFA REPORTS ON CHALATENANGO OPERATIONS

PA270420 San Salvador Radio Cadena Central in Spanish 2210 GMT 24 Nov 82

[Text] An official report has been released on the military operation carried out in the northern part of Chalatenango Department, which began on Wednesday, 10 November, and ended on Saturday, 20 November, in the general area of Ojos de Agua, Las Vueltas, La Laguna and El Carrizal. Members of Military Detachment No 1 of Chalatenango and other specialized armed forces troops participated in the operation, which had the following results:

Nine armed forces soldiers were killed and 20 were wounded. The number of dead guerrillas counted was 232, but it is believed that the guerrillas sustained additional casualties. Six terrorists were captured by the troops and an undetermined number of guerrillas were wounded but were carried away by their companions. According to the reports given to the Armed Forces Press Committee [Coprefa], the guerrillas were seen carrying their wounded companions away on stretchers.

Based on reports received this morning, it has been determined that the guerrillas who were killed belonged to what they called their Elite Special Forces, FES [Fuerzas Especiales Selectas], and to the Vanguardist Troops, UV [Unidades de Vanguardia]. It was confirmed that the National Propaganda Committee, Conapra [Comite Nacional de Propaganda] operated there for political and ideological indoctrination purposes. Material was found that indicated that they did photographic and serigraphy work there as well.

The armed forces report says that supporting fire destroyed a repeating station that the guerrillas had on Achichilco Hill. A clinic was dismantled at the La Laguna camp and surgical equipment -- plaster, surgical saws, bamboo crutches, [words indistinct], surgical needles and several kinds of medicine -- were found.

An average amount of FPL [Peoples Liberation Forces] propaganda and terrorist documents of high military value were also found at the same location.

The weapons that were confiscated were 21 rifles of various calibers and makes, including M-16, G-3, Galil, and .22-cal rifles; 6 .30-cal carbines; 7 shotguns; 9 pistols of various calibers; 2 grenade launchers; 2 missile launchers [words indinstinct] and a large amount of ammunition and cartridges for weapons of various calibers; 7 40-mm grenades; antipersonnel handgrenades of several makes and other types of [word indistinct]; 13 boobytrap flares and 5 sandwich-sized aluminum bombs.

The armed forces report continues: Also confiscated were other materials used in explosives, such as detonators, dynamite, powdered aluminum, etc., which were found in the terrorist camps that were destroyed during the operations in the northern part of Chalatenango Department. Other accessories, such as cartridges, helmets, knapsacks, foodstuffs, etc., were also found. Information was also received on presence of terrorists who were tall, dark and of heavy build; some of them were led by female commanders.

The armed forces also report that, with the help of personnel from the Public Works Ministry, a section of the highway between (Guarquila) Canton and San Jose de las Flores was repaired and the section that had been mined was cleared.

[Words indistinct] military assistance to the places that were now affected. The children showed signs of serious malnutrition, as a result of which the armed forces' medical brigade took steps to provide them with medical assistance.

The report was issued by Coprefa in San Salvador on 24 November.

FMLN REPORTS LA UNION DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS

PA280154 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 27 Nov 82

["Official report" issued by the General Command of the FMLN's Northeastern Francisco Sanchez Front in Morazan on 26 November -- read by announcer]

[Text] within the framework of the military campaign Heroes and Martyrs of October 1979-80, we will now report to the Salvadoran people the military actions staged in La Union Department by forces of the Northeastern Francisco Sanchez Front.

1. At 0430 on Wednesday, 24 November, our forces took up positions along the road between Santa Rosa de Lima and Anamoros and between Anamoros and Lislique.

The advance toward Lislique began simultaneously from three different sides. Forces were set up along the road leading to Nueva Esparta and Nonteca.

2. At 1530 that same day, enemy reinforcements advancing from Santa Rosa to Anamoros clashed with our forces near (Zopilote) Hill, in Mojones village, Anamoros Jurisdiction, 7 km south of that city. The enemy reinforcements were split in two. Sixty men in the vanguard were surrounded, and 150 soldiers coming behind them came under a heavy frontal attack that prevented their advance and kept them pinned down. Heavy fighting began at that point and lasted the entire following day and night. In the early morning hours, the enemy sent more reinforcements from La Union. The new forces, another 200 men, were sent to Mojones village. These new reinforcements were ineffectual. They began withdrawing at 0800, leaving in our hands 17 rifles and 18 prisoners, 3 of whom were wounded and turned over to the civilian population. The dead included a second lieutenant and one sergeant. On our side, we regret the heroic fall of two companeros.

3. Fighting began in Lislique at 1730 on 24 November, and by 1830 the first positions had been taken, thus encircling the enemy. The fighting took place at night in order to keep the surrounded enemy from escaping. Beginning early on 25 November, the encirclement was gradually tightened, and at 1200 on the 25th the last enemy positions were stormed. The soldiers fled the scene.

Here are the results of that action: 41 G-3 rifles recovered with all their equipment, 21 Czech rifles, 1 M-79 grenade launcher with a supply of 12 grenades, 11,000 7.62-mm and 7-mm cartridges, 1 .45 cal pistol, and 12 TRC-77 military radios. During this action, the FMLN captured 15 prisoners of war and killed 17 soldiers. We regret that three companeros fell in the course of this operation in Lislique. Four others were slightly wounded.

4. On 26 November our forces marched toward the town of Anamoros. The fighting began at 0600. At 1030 the enemy scattered. We still don't have exact information about the results of this action in Anamoros.

5. These operations were led by the following commanders: in Lislique, Commanders (Ramon), (Alonso) and (Ivan), who were directed by Companero Commander (Chale Guevara). In Mojones and Anamoros, Commanders (Silvio de Jesus Argueta) and (Jehova Marquez). In Lislique, along the road and at Anamoros the general conduct of the operations was handled by Companero Commander Claudio Rabindranath Armijo.

6. Simultaneously with these operations, our forces carried out a mortar attack on the commando garrison in San Francisco Gotera, as well as intense militia activity in the vicinity of that city. Our militias also carried out political actions in the north of La Union Department.

7. While these operations were underway, fierce clashes were reported against the enemy forces in Jocoaltique.

8. During these operations, the Honduran Air Force bombed the civilian population in the town of (Sulima) and harassed our positions in Morazan with rocket fire.

9. We note the high combative spirit of our fighters, militiamen and leaders, true representatives of the Salvadoran people, in contrast with the low morale of the troops of the Salvadoran dictatorship.

10. With these victories, our forces control all access routes to the north of La Union Department, isolating the enemy positions in the towns of Toloros, Nueva Esparta and Monteca.

11. The 350 men sent by the 6th Brigade of La Union as reinforcements were forced to retreat toward El Sauce, where they still remain.

The October 1979-1980 Heroes and Martyrs campaign of the FMLN keeps advancing victoriously throughout the country 47 davs after its initiation. We shall keep the Salvadoran people informed on the development of operations on the Northeastern Francisco Sanchez Front.

For the Northeastern Francisco Sanchez Front General Command,

[Signed] Jorge Melendez, Jonas: Juan Ramon Medrano, Balta, and Claudio Rabindranath Armijo, Comandante Francisco

Morazan, 26 November 1982

VENCEREMOS ON SALVADORAN-HONDURAN COORDINATION

PA281939 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1400 GMT 28 Nov 82

[Text] During this week's programs on Radio Venceremos the FMLN has disclosed intelligence reports that indicate that on 3 November the chiefs of the General Staff of the Honduran and Salvadoran Armies met with General (Dag), chief of one of the divisions of the U.S. Army's Rapid Deployment Forces, and with Gen Wallace Nutting. The conclusions reached at this meeting were:

A. The Salvadoran Army is in a difficult situation.

B. The capabilities of its officers have been exhausted.

C. The U.S. advisers will now personally direct the special operations in the struggle against the FMLN.

D. Any operation needed by the Salvadoran Army in San Miguel, La Union and Morazan Departments will be carried out by the Honduran Army.

E. The United States will be responsible for the technical and other means necessary to airlift Honduran troops.

Other intelligence reports indicate that U.S. A-7 planes are at the Ilopango air base in El Salvador and that they will be flown by U.S. pilots.

A squadron of A-7 planes has also been detected in the Honduras-El Salvador border area. These planes are based inside Honduras and are under the command of Colonel (McAllen) of the Southern Command.

Intelligence reports received by the FMLN also indicate that El Salvador's top military officers are currently preparing an offensive in the Morazan and San Miguel areas and that 8,000 Salvadoran soldiers supported by the Honduran Army will participate in this offensive. As part of this offensive, the top Salvadoran military leaders have coordinated with the Honduran Army the mobilization of Honduran troops to the area bordering on San Miguel and Morazan.

In upcoming programs Radio Venceremos will expand on these intelligence reports that confirm the Honduran Army's participation in another operation against FMLN positions. However, as we defeated the coordinated operation of the Honduran and Salvadoran Armies in Chalatenango, we will again defeat them in any part of the national territory where imperialist aggression dares set one single foot.

GUATEMALA

STATE COUNCIL PRESIDENT ON REAGAN MEETING

PA262016 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 26 Nov 82 pp 4, 69

[Text] The upcoming meeting between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Guatemalan President Rios Montt is very important for our country, because in the past few years there has been a cooling of relations between the two countries, Engineer Jorge Serrano Elias, president of the State Council, said yesterday.

Guatemala has most of its ties with the United States, but these links have unfortunately deteriorated. This meeting between the two presidents brings hope for improvement in our relations.

Regarding what Guatemala might expect from this meeting, Engineer Serrano Elias replied: We will give the same answer as President Rios Montt, who said he will not ask for anything and will maintain a dignified position.

I believe the main objective of the meeting will be to outline our basic problems and to seek better understanding of the new development and security policy that has been implemented in the country.

The United States is a friend of Guatemala, but in the past few years there has been a cooling of our relationship. This should not happen between friends. On the other hand, other aspects also have to be taken into account: Guatemala has applied for credits from the World Bank and the Central American Bank of Economic Integration (BCIE), and it needs the U.S. vote to obtain these credits. This is very important, he stressed.

This vote, he said, has been subjected to many internal pressures due to the problem of violence in the country. However, the government's new efforts to uphold respect for human rights in the areas in conflict will help surmount those political barriers.

Since we are dealing with talks between two leaders, one cannot say they will discuss an interventionist policy.

There is an international community in our country, and we must have good relations with their countries. This concept was lost in the past, and Central America was not spared from this phenomenon. We are suffering this due to inherited problems. We must try to improve our relations with all the countries of the world. The world has changed, communications are speedier. Today there is more of an interrelationship among states.

Nonintervention is a thing of the past, because in the real world there are economic and political international matters that exclude absolute nonintervention. Not even the large countries have been able to adopt their policies singlehandedly. Even in the United States there is intervention from foreign countries.

Any change of policy in a powerful country affects all the countries that revolve around it, he said, reiterating that one cannot live isolated in the world.

MINISTER RETURNS, COMMENTS ON OAS MEETING

PA261923 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 26 Nov 82 p 4

[Text] Belize has failed again. In his first statement to the media since he returned from the OAS meeting, Guatemalan Foreign Minister Eduardo Castillo Arriola confirmed yesterday that Belize has failed again in its attempts to be admitted as a member of the OAS.

Castillo Arriola said the Caribbean countries' proposal to reform Article 8 of the OAS Charter was not approved at the meeting. This reform would have made it easier for states such as Belize, the Malvinas Islands and Guyana to join the OAS.

The foreign minister explained that on this occasion it was deemed inadvisable for the OAS Permanent Council to study the reforms to Article 8, and that the decision to carry this out could not be made during a regular session. It would take a special session, he said, and this process would take some 3 years.

In the interim, he said, due to Guatemala's opposition Belize cannot be admitted to the OAS as a member. Guatemala maintains its claim over Belize's territory and refuses to recognize it as a state.

The meeting with Reagan will be in Tegucigalpa. Foreign Minister Castillo Arriola said that the venue for the Reagan-Rios Montt meeting has not been changed. He said it will be held in Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras, and not in San Pedro Sula.

HONDURAS

REPORTAGE ON UPCOMING RONALD REAGAN VISIT

Official 19 Nov Press Release

PA281700 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 20 Nov 82 p 3

[Press release issued by the Government International Information Office in Tegucigalpa on 19 November 1982]

[Text] The Honduran Government has received with satisfaction the news that U.S. President Ronald Reagan has accepted the invitation to visit Honduras that was extended by Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova during his meeting with Reagan at the White House in July of this year.

The visit, which will take place on 4 December, will have an open agenda, but it can be foreseen that the meeting between the two presidents will constitute a continuation of the high-level consultations that began during President Suazo Cordova's visit to Washington.

The trip to Honduras will be an excellent opportunity for the U.S. President to personally confront the country's socioeconomic problems and confirm our people's commitment to peace and the state's need for the economic cooperation programs that are being carried out with U.S. support.

The government feels that Mr Reagan's visit is a form of recognition by the United States of the efforts in favor of peace that have been carried out by the Honduran state, as well as of the democratic firmness of its institutions. President Suazo Cordova's administration has actively promoted a peace initiative within his foreign policy that has been well received by countries in Central America and outside the region.

During the meeting between Suazo Cordova and Reagan there will very likely be discussion of matters related to peace in Central America, the economic and social development of our region and other topics of mutual interest.

Coordinators Appointed

PA261259 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 26 Nov 82

[Bulletin issued by the Information Office of the Ministry of the Presidency -- no date given -- read by announcer]

[Text] The Information Office of the Ministry of the Presidency reports to the Honduran people that the Honduran Government has appointed Ambassador Roberto Martinez Ordonez and Col Edgardo Mejia as general coordinator and deputy coordinator, respectively, of the committee in charge of preparing the forthcoming visit of His Excellency U.S. President Ronald Reagan to our country. These coordinators will prepare and organize all the necessary activities so that this historic visit will be one more demonstration of the fraternal ties that exist between our two peoples and governments, and will serve to recognize and strengthen the constitutional and democratic government that we Hondurans have.

Deputies Foresee Benefits

PA281726 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 20 Nov 82 p 3

[Text] National Congress deputies commented yesterday that U.S. President Ronald Reagan's upcoming visit to Honduras will help to strengthen our democratic system and will open new sources of financing for the country's economic structure.

This is the first time a U.S. President has visited Honduras and on this occasion it is expected that the Honduran Government will receive increased assistance, particularly under the Caribbean Basin program.

Congressman Rafael Pineda Ponce said it would be good for Reagan to meet with the various social sectors so he may learn of the peace and harmony that exists in Honduras. Similarly, the congressmen believe that Reagan's tour will help to improve relations between Honduras and Nicaragua. [as published]

TIEMPO Appraisal

PA281624 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 20 Nov 82 p 6

[Editorial: "Mr Reagan's Visit to San Jose and Tegucigalpa"]

[Text] At the last minute, U.S. President Ronald Reagan has included in his 5-day trip to Latin America a visit to Tegucigalpa for a meeting with Honduran President Suazo Cordova. It will be the last stop on his return trip to Washington.

The announcement of this meeting has caused some surprise, since the U.S. President has been very selective with regard to the places he will visit.

He included only Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica and now Honduras, in a clear demonstration of his interest in supporting democratic governments that need to be consolidated or that are seen as examples of democratic development.

A recent report on the situation of conflict in Central America in the famous U.S. magazine NEWSWEEK, entitled "The Secret War" in Central America, reported the displeasure felt by the U.S. Embassy in Honduras over President Reagan's failure to include Honduras, which is considered to be a key figure in the regional political chess game, as concerns the pacification of the area.

There was apparently time to reconsider this point, if we are to believe an EFE news report that attributes the addition to the stop in Tegucigalpa to President Reagan's desire to place "more emphasis" on the initiative to grant economic support to the Caribbean Basin countries.

There is no doubt that, in its actions, the Honduran Government has shown open solidarity with the Reagan administration's Central American policy. The effort to create the so-called "Central American Democratic Community," which was later converted into the Forum for Peace and Democracy, is proof of this, even if it appears to be a diplomatic operation sponsored by San Jose and Tegucigalpa.

Thus, the inclusion of Costa Rica alone left a bitter taste here, since it would have been obvious that all this commitment and friendship was being poorly recompensed. Indeed, even in the Caribbean Basin plan's economic aid, our country is the least favored after Guatemala.

Of the Central American countries, El Salvador will get $75 million; Costa Rica, $70 million; Honduras, $35 million; and Guatemala, $10 million. However, in the area of military aid, we cannot present a similar complaint, since in 1982 El Salvador is assigned $82 million; Honduras, $32.3 million and Costa Rica, $2 million.

Honduras will also receive $13 million in aid from the U.S. Defense Department in 1983 for the improvement of airports, in line with the recently signed annex to the 1954 bilateral military aid agreement between Honduras and the United States, which was formalized on 7 May 1982. This aid is also based on the 2 April 1952 agreement on military flights.

President Reagan's trip to Tegucigalpa, then, is cause for satisfaction, particularly because it is seen as a good omen for peace in Central America.

This is so because the trip seems to indicate a shift in U.S. foreign policy, with the new U.S. Secretary of State Shultz appearing to seek a political-diplomatic solution rather than military imposition, unlike his predecessor, Mr Haig, whose efforts resulted in undeniable failure.

Additionally, the U.S. President's presence in Honduras to talk with President Suazo Cordova is undoubtedly a show of support for the democratic-electoral model as the best solution for the area's serious problems. Of course, this solution requires the implementation of objective and effective economic measures and political conduct including broad participation and respect for human rights, a sine qua non requirement for any democracy.

ALVAREZ MARTINEZ HOLDS NEWS CONFERENCE

PA270007 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 26 Nov 82

[Report on news conference with foreign reporters held by Gen Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, commander of the Armed Forces -- date and place not given -- some questions are read or summarized by newsman (Carlos Matute), while others are recorded -- all of Alvarez Martinez' responses are recorded]

[Text] [(Matute)] General Alvarez Martinez was asked about a possible declaration of war against Nicaragua. He replied to the foreign newsman as follows:

[Answer] You are misinterpreting what I've said, because I can't declare war. That must be done by the government of the republic. It is a decision that must be made by the National Congress.

What I have said is that a Marxist-type government has to be an enemy of our system. It has to be an enemy for ideological reasons. There can also be rivalry in other fields. It is also an enemy of our system in its objectives. Because Nicaragua is the base of subversion in Central America. Therefore, Honduras is not the one bringing war to Central America; it is Nicaragua. Nicaragua is the base of the subversion. It is giving logistical support to subversion in Central America. What is occurring in El Salvador cannot end, because they are daily supporting the Salvadoran guerrillas with medicine, weapons and ammunition. Therefore, it is in those terms that I have expressed myself, and this is not a declaration of war. In no way is this a declaration of war, because I do not have authority to declare war on anyone. In any case, if such a situation occurred in my country, the Honduran Congress would have to approve it and this has not even been given any thought.

I must further tell you that I, as chief of the armed forces, have not received any orders from the Honduran president to prepare for a war against Nicaragua. In the Honduran Armed Forces there is no spirit of aggression against Nicaragua. What I have said is that Nicaragua is the aggressor in Central America.

I still maintain this when I tell you of the way in which Nicaragua is operating: It is training our people to become guerrillas and terrorists. It has used our territory to traffic in weapons. We've found some of these weapons. Some weapons remained in Honduras, while others have been sent to El Salvador.

Nicaragua violates our airspace by flying weapons to the Salvadoran guerrillas.

The Salvadoran guerrillas movement is Marxist. If El Salvador falls under such a regime, Honduras will be the next to go. In other words, Nicaragua is attacking Honduras indirectly and is violating Honduran security in every way. Therefore, in its ideology and its objectives, Nicaragua is Honduras' enemy. Now, the fact that we are enemies in these two ways doesn't mean that we are going to war. Honduras, at least, is not seeking war. You can see the present situation. Nicaragua has an emergency situation. All of its departments of the border with Honduras are under a state of emergency. The Nicaraguan Government has decreed a state of emergency and the economy in that country is on a war footing. It has sent 24 battalions to the border with Honduras, while we, gentlemen, have only 4 battalions on the border with Nicaragua, and their mission is one of peace. Anybody who lives in Honduras knows that these battalions have been there for years.

The only new battalion is the La Mosquita Battalion, which we had to send because the Sandinists were daily coming into the country. They were killing and kidnapping people and stealing things. No one could navigate on the Coco River because they would machinegun him. Therefore, as an act of sovereignty, we had to send that battalion to restore order and to protect our territory. But the four battalions that have been there all along are on a peacekeeping mission. You can see that there is no prewar climate in Honduras. Honduras has a peaceful atmosphere. There is no mobilization here. I am not wearing fatigues. The people here are calm. They are involved in normal activities. Who, then, is provoking and seeking a warlike situation? What I've said in no way constitutes a declaration of war. It would be absurd, deceitful and ill-intentioned to interpret this as a declaration of war. I have said it, they are enemies of our country. I maintain that they are enemies of our country. They are definitely enemies of our country.

[Question from unidentified newswoman] You have also declared yourself an enemy of groups that work for human rights, by saying that they are also a part of the (?subversion). [Words indistinct] we've seen now that in El Salvador, U.S. military aid has been linked to respect for human rights. Similarly, it has been said Guatemala can't receive military aid as yet because human rights are not being respected there. So, aren't you endangering the U.S. military aid to Honduras with this statement?

[Answer] Well, young lady, I don't understand how you can ask questions. I have not declared myself an enemy of those who work for human rights. I have not said that. I am not an enemy of human rights, because I love my family, I respect my children and I respect life. I cannot be an enemy of human rights because I want my rights to be respected too. What I have said is that organizations have been infiltrated by people who serve other purposes that are very different from what you are talking about. I am not an enemy of human rights or the organizations that work for the respect of human rights in the world. I have said no such thing. What I have said is that people have infiltrated them, and that there is evidence of this.

So what happens is that there is a certain bias. When a guerrilla is captured, I receive boxes of letters saying that Mr So and So, as if he were a hero when he is really a criminal [as heard] but when an innocent person is killed or a bus is machine-gunned, no one speaks up for the people. Therefore, there is a bias. Who speaks up for human rights in Cuba? Who speaks up on behalf of those imprisoned by Fidel Castro? How many prisoners has he been holding for years? Who speaks up for them? No one does. Who spoke up when Nicaragua expelled (?the leader) of human rights in that country? Who speaks up for the thousands of refugees who are entering Honduras? No one says anything about that. But if a terrorist places a bomb, everybody speaks up for him. Therefore, I don't agree with those people, because they are not impartial. They don't have enough human concern to worry about those people who lose their rights or whose freedom is threatened. I fight those people. I fight them in the sense that I repudiate them. I want to clarify this, so that it won't be said that I am fighting them, because it is a problem to talk here. It seems that some people are not too clear or honest. I said I fight them, but in the sense of criticizing these things. There is bias in this.

I feel that human rights should also exist for the Russians who are oppressed, for the Nicaraguans who are oppressed, for the Cubans who are oppressed, for all those who are oppressed or whose freedom has been restricted.

This is what I have been criticizing. It is not that I am fighting the organizations. Therefore, young lady, you see, even the church has been infiltrated. There is a world church system [words indistinct] who are saying that the church has been infiltrated.

[Question by foreign newswoman] Are you referring to the Catholic Church?

[Answer] I'm talking in general terms. I am referring to the Christian part of the world. There are many organizations that are not really working to promote Christianity. They have other inclinations. I say all of these things because the people must be warned. They exploit the people's good faith. There are people who are very sensitive and who want to cooperate, but these individuals have been infiltrated, and they do not believe in God or anything else. They do not believe in respect for human life. They believe in only one objective: To seize power in a country. They want only to subject the country to a totalitarian system, like that of Nicaragua. The Nicaraguan people have been deceived. They fought against a 45-year old dictatorship. That was perfect. They were fully entitled to that. But what happened? Now they have a dictatorship that is worse.

I will tell you something: Aside from my ideological position -- and I am anti-communist; I cannot believe in communism, because I believe in the free enterprise system, freedom and God -- but aside from this opinion, Honduras is an underdeveloped and poor country. There is unemployment and injustice, due to an obsolete system that must be corrected, updated and modernized. In other words, it has all the characteristics of an underdeveloped country. There is illiteracy, lack of [words indistinct], which you all know.

Nicaragua is just like us. However, young lady, I want to ask you: How many Honduran refugees are there outside this country? Tell me of a single refugee. There aren't any. Meanwhile, we are receiving 300 Nicaraguan refugees per day. So, what is failing? Which system, then, is failing? Within our status as an underdeveloped country, which is a factor that is equal for all, we are all involved in a struggle to overcome this situation. However, we are getting 300 refugees from Nicaragua. They are not rich people. They are not middle class people. They are poor people, peasants and rural workers. They are supposed to be the ones who, according to the theory of the proletariat, must be helped and improved. This is the truth that they are experiencing. This is what must be announced to the world. [Words indistinct] but the people, even if they are poor, living under a tree or in a hut, but who are free and are not persecuted, stay in their own country, waiting for things to change. Why, then, do they come here? This is a clear explanation of what is occurring in Nicaragua, independent of ideological positions, as I said. I respect you, whether you are a socialist or a communist. I respect your ideas, even if I don't agree with you. But attitudes prove who is failing. I repeat: There isn't a single Honduran refugee anywhere in the world. Yet, we have more than 15,000 Nicaraguan refugees and an average of 300 enter the country every day. We'll see what measures we can take to care for all of them. They are poor, not rich people. The rich people left when Somoza left. Who, then, is failing? Who is really violating human rights in Central America?

The Salvadoran Government has been attacked for violating human rights. It is a guerrilla (?tactic) [words indistinct] to prevent the people from voting. They machinegunned the people, so that they wouldn't vote. They killed the people, and yet the people voted. So who are the true criminals and violators of human rights? The guerrillas are destroying the infrastructure, which serves the Salvadoran people.

They have blown up bridges. The rich people can rent a helicopter to go from one side to the other. The poor have to walk or ride the bus to go to work. So, if the bridges are blown up, the people can't ride the bus, they have to walk or [word indistinct] to work. So who are they hurting? They detonate bombs and machinegun buses. Who travel in the buses? The poor people, whom they claim to be protecting and liberating. It is this kind of statement that everyone likes to confuse. When one is honest, one says I don't owe anything to anybody, I only owe something to my country. [Words indistinct] then I am criticized for all kinds of remarks that I've never made or things I've never done or even imagined. I am an honest person. Imagine, what a big sin: To be honest and to tell the truth! Pardon me for speaking so vehemently about this, but it hurts to hear certain questions, asked in a way that puts words in my mouth, words that I've never spoken, or that result in answers that I never meant to give. So, be sincere and honest with your questions, because I am being honest and clear with you. I am not hiding anything.

[Recorded question indistinct]

[Answer] First of all, that last thing you said is not true. The idea of the civil defense committees emerged as a result of the terrorist actions that took place in the country, the seizure of hostages by terrorists. The military and civilian sectors then decided that we needed a way to protect the citizens and to have them alert the police, to prevent actions of that nature. All modern and organized countries have a civil defense system. Therefore, this was organized and the armed forces participated, in that they gave guidance so that these committees could be organized. They have been organized. You can go and look at any civilian defense committee and you will see that there are no militarymen in them. All members are civilians. There might be retired soldiers, but they are civilians. They are no longer members of the military institution.

Now then, what has been happening? There has been a good deal of criticism, mostly of a political nature. In other words, one party complains that there are more members of another party in a specific committee, things like that. Efforts have been made to iron out the differences. As far as I know, all of the complaints have been of that kind, one party having more members in the committee than another party. However, it would appear that this is being overcome.

I must state that their function is as follows: For example, in a neighborhood where everyone knows everyone else, a stranger arrives whom no one knows. This is reported by the residents, who say that he is a stranger and that he looks foreign. They report this to the police or to the immigration officials, who then go and ask the individual for his identification. This is to prevent the arrival of saboteurs, terrorists, etc. In a certain way, this will help to guard the country, because we are not living in a normal situation. This is not to say that Honduras wants this; it has been provoked from abroad. Almost all of the people whom we have captured have been foreigners -- terrorists from El Salvador and other countries.

I don't think that what is being said is true. [passage indistinct]

[Answer] Excuse me, but where are you from?

[Unidentified newsman] I am from the U.S. TIME magazine. [passage indistinct]

[Answer] That is not true. Let me tell you something, if you are responsible newsmen, I sincerely tell you that you shouldn't base your reports on gossip. You say that the majority [words indistinct] THE NEW YORK TIMES says that 100 percent of the Honduran population is frightened. That is not true. [Indistinct remark by newsman] Well then, don't say it. Be honest, be gentlemen and be men. [passage indistinct]

The only thing that has been done here is that we periodically establish checkpoints. This is part of a method to keep the subversives off balance. For example, checkpoints are established on all of the country's roads today at 1800. This way, the subversive never knows when he can travel safely with bombs and weapons. It is annoying for the people to have to stop and be searched, but unfortunately this is the only means we have of knowing whether vehicle traffic is normal or abnormal. We have confiscated many things. There have been cars that have turned around and fled, and about 100 meters away we found boxes with explosives, subversive material and a number of things.

I reiterate that we no longer have the same situation that we had before. It is not the Honduran people who have caused this; it has come from abroad. The country must find a way to neutralize the development of any such situation here, because if we don't, we are going to end up [words indistinct] like El Salvador. What happened in El Salvador is that, for some unknown reason, the people did not originally respond to the government's call -- it has been said that the people showed apathy and no interest in the guerrilla problem initially. They felt that the guerrilla problem and the government were far removed from them; but when they reacted and rejected the nationwide strike that was called for by the subversives, deciding not to heed that call, this action became the people's first step in helping the government to fight violence in the country. However, what happened? Well, the guerrilla apparatus had already developed and had grown very strong and thus they are still fighting it, in a struggle that may last for years, especially should Nicaragua continue to aid the guerrillas. Who knows how long that will last? Therefore, Honduras' intention is to avoid the development of such a subversive apparatus here. We have to neutralize it now, while it is still growing and is still small. We are conducting investigations and are involved in all kinds of activities to prevent these people from growing stronger, because it would mean a high cost in bloodshed that we are not willing to pay.

This Honduran nation had its famous revolution back in the 1930's, which it paid for in blood. It is not possible to do so again. There is no reason for that. The Hondurans have no reason for that. Even with all of our problems, we are discussing them and are holding talks. We are involved in efforts to solve our social and economic problems. It is not right that someone is importing violence and terrorism from abroad.

All of the measures that we are taking are bothersome, but the people understand, nevertheless. Of course, those who sympathize with the subversives [words indistinct].

So I ask you, don't people leave when they are afraid? That is why we have all of these refugees, all of these Salvadorans. Why? Because of what you are saying. Who has left Honduras? No one. We don't have an iron curtain or a bamboo curtain, to keep people from leaving, like they have in Nicaragua. No one is allowed to leave the country there.

You are smiling, but it is true. [Words indistinct] it is true. This tells you that despite the problems that we have here, people don't leave. They feel calm here. At least they can tell the truth.

Read the papers. They attack the armed forces and the government. They say all kinds of things. Take a look at our press. It is excessively free, because it is sometimes disrespectful of the rights of people; and yet there are no restrictions. This is how it is. This doesn't happen in Nicaragua.

[Indistinct question from unidentified newsman]

[Answer] It is an opinion. I would deplore it if it were yours, but unfortunately, it is one opinion. In don't agree with it. [passage indistinct] A warrant is needed to search homes. [words indistinct] Police can't enter just any house whenever they wish, because the Constitution is in effect here and it provides that a home must be respected. The Constitution is very clear on this. You must have a warrant and it must be between (?800) and 1800. You can't search a house after that time, unless you are in pursuit of a criminal and he enters a house; then you can follow him. Only in that case can you enter without a warrant and after the hours I mentioned. The law is very clear on this. So any search must be done with a warrant.

There have been cases when safehouses or people's jails were searched and warrants weren't used. When we were looking for Mr Casanova, for example, how could we use a search warrant? We knew perfectly well, through the intelligence office, that the man was there and that the people's jail was operating there. We knew that the individuals in the house were armed. So we carried out a military operation. It was true, Mr Casanova was there and we rescued him alive.

I believe that if we are going to... [Alvarez changes thought] that for everything we do, we are going to need... [Alavarez again changes thought] There must be a certain flexibility. But in the case of normal houses, we've always used a warrant. Now I must tell you, there may be some abuses by some of my subordinates, but these abuses could be committed by police anywhere in the world. When I have had sufficient evidence, we have proceeded with [word indistinct] I have punished the action according to the fault or crime committed. Therefore, this doesn't mean that there is an institutionalized order to abuse and harass the people. This isn't true; but I am not going to deny that there have been abuses or incorrect actions by some of my subordinates. However, we do punish them when evidence is presented or when it is proven that an individual has committed an abuse.

I will give you an example. About 4 months ago, a Guatemalan doctor and an American lady were going together. As the story goes, the American lady charged that she was almost raped and that her date had been kipnapped. An investigation began and it was proven that the doctor had been murdered and buried. We investigated the case and discovered that the criminals were the members of a patrol, a sergeant and two soldiers. We began questioning them and they kept saying that it wasn't true and that they had not done this. They claimed that since they all look alike because of their Indian features, there was some confusion. However, we were able to determine that they were the culprits. We took them to the place of the incident and found the body. These people were taken to court for murder. They appeared before the First Criminal Court in Santa Rosa Copan. When you have proof, it is difficult [word indistinct], unfortunately.

[(Matute)] General Alvarez Martinez was asked if the government of the republic was receiving sufficient aid from the U.S. Government. In this regard, he said:

[Answer] I'll talk to you as a military officer.

Perhaps as military officers we tend to exaggerate. I don't know, perhaps we worry more because it is our job. To me this aid is not sufficient. In comparative terms, well, I am referring to Nicaragua as a military power... [changes thought] as a military officer, I am concerned because it is my duty to protect my country militarily. The truth is that Nicaragua in 3 years has doubled or almost tripled its armed forces. It took us 9 years to double our forces. In other words, we began the 1969 war with a certain number of soldiers. We doubled that number, but over a period of 9 years. However, what we doubled in 9 years Nicaragua has tripled, and Nicaragua has done this in 1 and 1/2 or 2 years, more or less. Thus it is worrisome not only for Honduras but for the rest of Central America because they have developed a military force that is beyond the needs of their country. There is an imbalance. To better explain this, Nicaragua has a military strength that is almost equal to that of all the other Central American countries together. Therefore, this is beyond any normal strength. There is no balance. Nicaragua should have force strong enough to defend its country and not to say I am stronger than all the rest put together. This goes beyond any sense of balance. So it is a matter of concern to us, because what is the reason for it? I am sure it is not to invade the United States. I don't think that the United States will be foolish enough to invade Nicaragua. It is not politically advisable to do so. Nicaragua is a very small country and the United States is a first-ranked world power. Therefore, it wouldn't be...[changes thought] well, this is my opinion. It would be important and counterproductive for a big power to invade Nicaragua with troops.

So, why the large Nicaraguan army? What is the reason for it? There is no reason for it. Honduras, I repeat to you, is not planning aggression against Nicaragua. We have enough land and enough natural resources. We haven't even developed 25 percent of our natural resources. We have enough domestic problems. As I've mentioned, we have enough social problems: health, housing and unemployment problems. We have enough to keep us busy for 25 years trying to solve our own problems, so why seek a warlike adventure with another country when that implies a great economic effort? Why spend the little reserve we have in a war without purpose? Let's say we have the capacity to occupy a country. Well, ok, let's occupy and attack a country, but then what do we do afterward? Well, we would have to withdraw because we couldn't hold the terrain or country under occupation. There is no country around that could do that. So why do it? We are not thinking of it. El Salvador then? It would have to enter through our territory and we would not permit that. And Guatemala? That's even worse. So why such a large army? This is the reason for our concern: What need is there for a buildup?

We know history, and it tells us that the first thing every communist country does is to become a military power. Why? There are two reasons for this; first, to be able to support -- to a certain extent, shamelessly -- subversion in its neighboring countries. Secondly, the military power serves (?to create) a situation: If that country is attacked subversively, [words indistinct]. So it is a way of supporting a political action, the true objective of which is to oust a government through subversion and to convert it into a communist country. That is the domino theory -- they fall one after the other. This is the only explanation that I have for Nicaragua's large army. In the last instance, it might serve to carry out an invasion, because it is stronger than other countries. However, [words indistinct] intentions. There is no logical intention. Nicaragua certainly can't say that it is arming itself to fight the United States. That's absurd. That's not true. It doesn't have that capacity right now and it won't have it in 20 years. It won't have the capacity to face a power like the United States. You know that this isn't possible. It is ridiculous. So, why do they have that army? That's why my concern grows. I am talking in military terms. I believe that the aid we receive is not enough.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] Our country does not have the funds to purchase equipment. However, Nicaragua has been given more than 800 military transport vehicles. It has tanks that are heavier than ours. They have built, in record time, some 8 to 12 military installations for the unit/battalion level. Sir, we have spent more than 20 years building installations for the units that we have and we are not yet finished, because we proceed slowly. Today we build barracks, tomorrow a classroom, then a dining room for the troops, etc. We progress a little at a time. These are old plans, and yet, they've built all of that in record time. How do you think that a country whose people are starving to death, just like us, who are lacking certain things, a country that rations everything and that has no sugar, toilet paper or toothpaste, can develop a military force? Simply because it is being supported by the communist bloc. There is no other explanation. It isn't a matter of rubbing Aladdin's lamp to have tanks, planes and rifles appear. Isn't this true?

In other words, what I am trying to say is that we are at a disadvantage because the socialist bloc is supporting Nicaragua. Libya and Russia are supporting it through Morocco. The equipment is coming through Morocco by ship. It is also coming from Cuba via Aeroflot and ship. However, we have to purchase the equipment from the United States. It gives us some aid, but a minimal quantity. We have to buy the rest at very high interest rates. Therefore, we are at a disadvantage. Why? Because behind Nicaragua there is the logistic support of the socialist bloc. What do we have behind us? A friendly country that is not giving anything away. How can I solve this problem? How? I can't ask my country for what it can't give me. For example, our defense budget is the same. It has been the same for the past 3 years. Next year, 1983, it will also be the same. We will have gone 3 years with the same budget. Therefore, I think [words indistinct] prices, perhaps not to the same extent, but it occurs here, too. Then, our budget is decreasing in real terms. We can't grow. In other words, all of the plans that I had for certain improvements next year will come to naught. We had a certain budget for 1981. We had the same figure in 1982, for it was frozen, and in 1983 we'll have the same budget again. Everything is more expensive, gasoline prices go up, so whatever figure I had for gasoline must be adjusted because it went up, and yet I still get the same funds for gasoline. This holds true for everything else. Meanwhile, the other gentlemen continue to increase their strength, so our only hope is that the United States will change its policy and decide to truly support us, so that we can have a sufficiently persuasive strength to cause Nicaragua to change its mind about any intentions of attacking or invading us. We are not asking for a comparative force, because it is not necessary, but we need at least enough strength to be persuasive, strength that will give us tranquillity, so that they will not bother us and so that we can solve our internal problems. Otherwise, I see no solution, because Honduras' productivity and economy are sharply deteriorating. The people have certain needs that are more urgent. Our defense could be made more urgent, but we prefer to take the risk and to try to stop these people with what we have, rather than imposing limitations on things that are essential to our people.

[Question by unidentified AP newsman] Are there Somozist camps or Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries on the border and are they receiving support from sectors of the Honduran Armed Forces? Do you think that tensions on the border are increasing or decreasing?

[Answer] To answer your first question, I will tell you that it isn't true. I even invite you to go to the border to see if there are any camps.

I have to (?admit) that it is probable that there are bands. We've captured some people and we expelled them from the country. But I can neither deny nor confirm that there aren't any [words indistinct]. I also want to tell you that the Sandinist army has made several incursions into our territory. They have stolen cattle, killed people and kidnapped people. We have had approximately 60 incidents this year. I repeat: Nicaraguan patrols that come into our territory. At the same time, I must tell you that it is very difficult for us to control our border with Nicaragua, meter by meter. It is very difficult. We would have to double or triple the number of troops that we have there. This would imply neglect of the other sectors of the country. We don't have the number of battalions that Nicaragua has. So it would represent a great effort for us to have to maintain almost total vigilance on our border with Nicaragua.

In addition, I want to tell you that Nicaragua hasn't acted in good faith toward us. So, to what extent should we feel obligated to make such a great effort, which would mean funds and the mobilization of troops? This costs money. It would mean wearing out our troops and our equipment, simply to have a large force with which to guard Nicaragua's back. Then again, Nicaragua is responding by training terrorists and guerrillas, by violating our territory and by introducing weapons into our country to support domestic subversives in Honduras. In other words, there is no compensation. I believe that if Nicaragua truly showed friendship with Honduras by not exporting subversion to our country, Honduras, in good faith, would make a more generous effort, even if it cost us more, to protect Nicaragua and its border. [words indistinct]

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] Pardon me, there was a second part to your question.

[Unidentified newsman] Whether tensions are increasing or decreasing.

[Answer] This has been very irregular. There has been times when tension is very high and there are other times when everything is peaceful. Right now, even though they have such large (?units), there have been no clashes, although they bombed La Mosquita some time ago. They dropped six small bombs. We still have the empty shells, which fell in our territory. That was the most recent incident I know of. But right now it can be said that tensions aren't very high. They are irregular. In other words, it goes up and down.

[(Matute)] Another question posed to Alvarez Martinez dealt with the existence of counterrevolutionary camps on the Honduran-Nicaraguan border. He said:

[Answer] [Passage indistinct] if we find them we capture them and expel them from the country, because it is very certain that individuals under the cover of having been accepted by us as refugees are involved in those kinds of activities. This is the case on the border with El Salvador, where we have detected guerrillas in the refugee camps. They go there to rest with the consent of some international organizations. We are not against organizations but against individuals who take advantage of the organizations for other purposes and completely distort the mission of the organizations. This occurs. The international organizations that protect the Salvadoran refugees have passed medicine and food to the Salvadoran guerrillas because they are inside those organizations. They act in UNHCR [UN High Commission for Refugees] and in other international organizations. I don't know how the higher officials of those organizations permit those people to be there.

This is how these organizations lose credibility. When there is partiality and hidden intentions that damage our country's security, our sovereignty and our political position on all of these problems, this becomes an insult and an abuse. But as I said, many of these things do happen. Now, when we detect any of these individuals, we expel them from the country. We've expelled several. However, the Sandinist commanders want us to guard the border for them, 24 hours a day, inch by inch, while they are devoted to supporting the subversives in El Salvador, Guatemala and want to hurt us, too. That's very nice, indeed. But one must give in order to receive.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] [Words indistinct] I have said that the commanders are enemies because I am dealing with an existing reality. Now then, from this to the possibility that Honduras and Nicaragua might reach an agreement, this is also feasible. I imagine it is feasible. I suppose it is feasible even with the positions of those gentlemen. But so far the only thing they have demonstrated is what I have told you. Now then, our foreign secretary has orders and our government has made the political decision to try and live in peace with all neighboring countries. That is why Honduras is promoting that. Now then, if the foreign secretary is able to have Honduras' desire with regard to Nicaragua come true, then it would be great, because to me that means fewer problems, don't you think so? It means fewer problems for the armed forces. Therefore, in that case I am neither against this, nor am I saying that we are going to fight them or anything like that.

When I speak of militancy, I am speaking in a general sense. In other words, each Honduran must be alert and must fulfill his duty as a citizen, just as each soldier must fulfill his duty as a soldier -- of protecting his country, of being alert about any irregular thing and of reporting it or helping to protect his country. That is the duty of all citizens. The truth is that there is subversion in Honduras. It is small but it is trying to grow. It is in that sense that I am speaking of militancy. I am not saying that we are all going to go on a war footing, in the sense of a conventional war and of going to fight Nicaragua. I am not talking about that. I am talking of the militant stance of having each person fulfill his duty as a citizen to protect his country, because each of us has a duty to protect it -- the soldiers, the workers at work, everyone in their jobs. We must be alert because we are threatened.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] I must repeat, we spoke of an adversary, but it is an ideological adversary, because we don't think alike. However, as I've said here in Honduras, I am not fighting the communists just because they are communists. I accept their idea. Everyone has his own ideas and no one can claim to have the truth, because it is difficult to establish to what extent democracy, as an ideology or philosophy, is the most correct, the most correct political thought that mankind has. It is not perfect, it has its own defects. But to me, the best thing about democracy is freedom, freedom of enterprise, freedom in every sense. I think that that is the best thing. Mankind has inherited this. It is natural for man to be free. For this reason, it is the best thing that this system has. That's why I believe in it. I know people who don't agree with me, but I respect their way of thinking. [Words indistinct] the communists. We've persecuted the terrorist or the guerrilla or the man who is violating the country's laws and freedom in an effort to destabilize the government, to create economic problems for the country by establishing a climate that would prevent anyone from wanting to invest here, because the country is in danger.

These are two ways of attacking a country. This is what I am fighting.

I am not fighting the man with the idea, because he is free to think whatever he wants. The plazas as here are sites of rallies where anyone and everyone can say what he wants; nobody will bother him. But to go from that to making bombs or gathering children in order to sow hatred among them, so they they will later become terrorists or guerrillas, that is not political action or competition. It just isn't.

You mentioned something about... [Alvarez changes thought] If the armed forces would support.... [Alvarez again changes thought] Let me tell you something. We are an organization that is subordinate to the executive branch, which is headed by the president. If the country makes the political decision of having Honduras decrease its armaments, then even if I as a military officer do not like that decision, I have to accept it or leave. I either accept the order or I say, listen gentlemen, this is as far as I go; I do not agree with that decision, and I ask for my retirement to leave the armed forces. I have no other choice because there is an established authority, which is the political power in this country. It is the Congress and the president. If they decide that the Honduran Armed Forces must reduce their armaments, then what can we soldiers do? Just heed the order and store the weapons or destroy them or whatever it is that they want done with them. Those of us who do not like it then would have to leave, ask for retirement. We must say: I do not agree with that policy, sir, give me my retirement; I am leaving; I will be a civilian. There is no other alternative.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] [Words indistinct] he is the supreme commander of the armed forces. To begin, who decides the budget and all those things? He has the last word. I can have an opinion on something, but in the end I have to consult him, and he says: Listen general, I don't think this should be so; maybe we better do it this way. What else can I do? I can make myself understood; and the day that I do not agree with his policy, then my other alternative is to say: Mr President: I am leaving; I present my resignation; I do not agree with you. I either have to obey or leave. There is nothing else. We are part of the executive branch. We are an institution that is subordinate to it. I want you to understand that the times when the institution ruled the country are over. We ruled this country for 11 years, and I publicly state that I do not think that soldiers should rule a country. If we did, it was due to circumstances that should be regretted, because the function of the armed forces is not to rule a country. We have understood this, and we have supported this democratic process. We will continue to support it because that is part of the salvation of my country, for the democratic process to reach its culmination in order to strengthen the system and to promote the social and economic development of my country. The armed forces have to contribute to this because we are part of this country. We must respect that hierarchy, that authority, so that this process can continue without interruption. We must submit ourselves [words indistinct] in accordance with the law.

NICARAGUA

DEMONSTRATORS PROTEST UPCOMING REAGAN TOUR

PA271957 Paris AFP in Spanish 1841 GMT 27 Nov 82

[Text] Managua, 27 Nov (AFP) -- In the city of Masaya, 30 km east of Managua, several thousand demonstrators protested the upcoming visit of U.S. President Ronald Reagan to Central and South America.

The demonstrators marched through the streets of Masaya, demanding that 57 peasants kidnapped in recent days and supposedly taken to Honduras be returned to Nicaragua.

Members of the Association of Mothers of Heroes and Martyrs of the Revolution headed the demonstration. The participants carried signs that read: "We Want Peace." They signed a letter addressed to the Honduran Government that asked for the return of the kidnapped peasants.

Several speakers reiterated "that the Nicaraguan people repudiate Ronald Reagan's visit to Central America, as it endangers and threatens Nicaragua."

Recently, Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, said that "Reagan's visit will only bring blood, death and more misfortune to Central America and will be of no benefit to the U.S. people."

BORGE ON NUEVA SEGOVIA ACTION, REAGAN TRIP

PA222216 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Nov 82

[Text] Commander Tomas Borge, the Nicaraguan interior minister, has reported that joint forces of the Sandinist People's Army and State Security forced counterrevolutionary bands operating in Jalapa, in the Nicaraguan Department of Nueva Segovia, to flee to Honduras.

In a statement for the press in Managua, Commander Borge added that the bandits were not encircled, as this would have required an action in which the revolutionary forces would have had to enter Honduran territory, only a few hundred meters away from the area of operations. Borge added that this attitude of the Sandinist army is a lesson for the Tegucigalpa regime, as the Nicaraguan combatants could have completely annihilated the counterrevolutionaries had the Nicaraguan forces entered Honduran territory.

The Sandinist leader also referred to U.S. President Ronald Reagan's tour in Latin America, and his plans to visit Honduras. Regarding this, he said Reagan was a vulture coming to Central America to get carrion.

Finally, Borge announced the arrest in Managua of former Deputy Justice Minister Alberto Gamez on charges of corruption and said that the Nicaraguan revolution will be merciless in punishing government officials who get involved in illicit activities.

FOREIGN MINISTER D'ESCOTO VISITS HUNGARY

For Budapest Domestic Service and MTI coverage of the 25-29 November visit of Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman to Hungary, see the Hungary section of the 29 November Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

CASTRO ASKS NONALIGNED TO DEFEND MOZAMBIQUE

PA281716 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 28 Nov 82

[Text] Fidel Castro, president of Cuba and of the Nonaligned Movement, has sent a message to the heads of state and government of the countries that are members of the movement informing them that the authorities of the People's Republic of Mozambique have reported that racist South African troops are massing in the Ressano Garcia border region, some 120 km from Maputo, the capital of Mozambique.

After explaining that the pretext used by Pretoria's racists is a presumed attack by Mozambican military forces against a South African town in Komatipoort, the message says that everything indicates that South Africa is trying to create the psychological atmosphere necessary to unleash an armed attack on a member of the Nonaligned Movement that is struggling to consolidate its independence.

Fidel Castro's message stresses that for a very long time the international community has been aware of the South African regime's cowardly and criminal actions which are aimed at destabilizing Mozambique, Angola and other frontline states.

Later on in the message he said that due to the gravity of the situation it is necessary to ask all the nonaligned countries to unite their efforts to halt the cowardly aggressive intentions of South Africa and to get the racist South African troops to withdraw from the border with Mozambique.

The message stresses that the Nonaligned Movement must again forcefully condemn the South African regime and must reiterate its solidarity with the people of Mozambique by demanding that the United Nations immediately take whatever steps are necessary to defend the people of Mozambique and defeat the racists' ill-fated objectives.

REAGAN TOUR AIMED AGAINST LATIN AMERICAN PEOPLES

FL261738 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1241 GMT 26 Nov 82

[Commentary by Miguel Toirac of Revista de la Manana and Javier Rodriguez of PRENSA LATINA -- live]

[Excerpts] [Toirac] In today's international commentary we are going to discuss Ronald Reagan's forthcoming visit to four Latin American countries: Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica and Honduras. The U.S. President is also going to meet with the Salvadoran head of state in Costa Rica and the Guatemalan head of state, Efrain Rios Montt, in Honduras.

I believe we can discuss the current situation in Central America in this context. As a matter of fact, a U.S. official has explained that President Reagan is not planning to ease the economic and financial situation of this area and that, on the contrary, we could say, it is not a successful situation. We can also discuss the political situation.

[Rodriguez] Certainly, I think that no one is expecting any great results from Reagan's tour. As we have said on prior occasions, we are expecting maneuvers against the Latin American people; we expect new threats and efforts to put the final touches to the attacks which the U.S. Administration plans to carry out in this area. I believe that the situation in Central America, particularly on the eve of President Ronald Reagan's trip to several Latin American countries -- South America and Central America -- does create concern due to the great tension in this area. This tension is precisely the result of U.S. interest in strengthening domination, a domination which that country has been gradually losing through the years.

I believe that if we review the events taking place in Central America, we can see what is happening. For example, we can start with El Salvador. The situation in El Salvador is very well known. The fact that the Salvadoran Armed Forces have not been able to defeat the FMLN guerilla forces is also very well known. This has really demoralized the armed forces which have not been able to carry out on their own the fighting against the Salvadoran guerrilla forces.

[Toirac] In relation to Reagan's visit, Nicaraguan Government Junta member Sergio Ramirez said yesterday that Reagan's tour through Central and South America is not going to improve the situation. On the contrary, it is going to increase the tension in the area because, as it has been disclosed, no economic problems are going to be solved. This visit -- as can be deducted from the meetings Reagan is going to hold -- is aimed at the different guerrilla movements; therefore, this visit is by no means going to solve the problems of the area.

[Rodriguez] This trip is certainly aimed against the Central Amercan people. For example, Reagan is going to meet with Guatemalan President Efrain Rios Montt at a time when the state of siege has been extended in that country. Last night the Guatemalan Government extended the state of siege for another 30 days. This has been in force in the entire country since last July. Reagan is going to meet with the Guatemalan president at a time when the Guatemalan people are living under a state of siege and brutal repression. Horrifying reports of attempts to exterminate the Indian and peasant population in Guatemala have been reported.

In other words, Reagan is going to meet with the Guatemalan president at a time when these events are taking place. Reagan is also going to meet with the Honduran president at a time when the Honduran Government and Armed Forces are directly participating in attacks against Nicaragua and against the struggle of the Salvadoran revolutionaries. He is also going to meet with the Costa Rican president at a time when the U.S. Administration is trying to use Costa Rica as a springboard for aggression against the other Central American countries. Of course, Reagan is also going to meet with the Salvadoran president, a great U.S. ally.

NUNEZ-LED NICARAGUAN DELEGATION ARRIVES 28 NOV

PA280159 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0122 GMT 28 Nov 82

[Text] Havana, 27 Nov (EFE) -- Commander Carlos Nunez Tellez, president of the Nicaraguan State Council and member of the FSLN National Directorate, arrived today in this capital heading a delegation from his country. Commander Nunez was greeted by Antonio Perez Herrero, alternate member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Politburo, and Jorge Enrique Mendoza, member of the Central Committee, among other representatives of the PCC. The Nicaraguan delegation, which was invited by the PCC Central Committee, is also comprised of Carlos Fernando Chamorro, director of the newspaper BARRICADA, and Gioconda Belli and Carlos Gallo, officials of propaganda and political education of the FSLN.

MAN JUMPS FENCE, ENTERS VENEZUELAN EMBASSY

PA282335 Paris AFP in Spanish 2312 GMT 28 Nov 82

[Excerpts] Havana, 28 Nov (AFP) -- It was learned here that a man believed to be a Cuban citizen this afternoon entered the Venezuelan Embassy in Havana after jumping the fence that surrounds the building. The man was not injured by the bullets fired by the guards protecting the embassy. Inside the embassy located on the elegant Fifth Avenue, Venezuelan diplomats refuse to answer questions from the press, while outside several police cars can be seen at the corner.

PERU

MORE PROVINCES UNDER STATE OF EMERGENCY

PY272149 Paris AFP in Spanish 2049 GMT 27 Nov 82

[Text] Lima, 27 Nov (AFP) -- The Peruvian Government decreed today a state of emergency in the Pasco and Yauli provinces in the country's main mining zone to the east of Lima. There are now seven provinces in Peru under a state of emergency, including the Pasco and Yauli provinces. This means that individual guarantees are suspended in those provinces and that they are under police control.

The state of emergency for a 15-day period in the Pasco and Yauli provinces, where the mines exploited by the state-run Centromin company are located, is aimed at preventing acts of violence which may pose danger to lives and property, the decree says. Thirty thousand miners in that zone have announced that they will go on strike next Monday for better salaries.

The Andean province of Contumaza in the north was declared under a state of emergency on 20 November because its inhabitants had blocked roads and taken over an electricity plant in order to draw attention to the region's problems.

Five provinces in Ayacucho and Apurimac in the southeast have been under a state of emergency since last year because of the intense terrorist activities by the Shining Path organization in that region.

VENEZUELA

CALDERON SAYS OPEC SHOULD KEEP $34 PRICE

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[Text] Caracas, 22 Nov (OPECNA) -- Humberto Calderon Berti, Venezuela's energy and mines minister, said this weekend that the best thing for OPEC to do is maintain the reference price of $34 and freeze it for 1 or 2 years. Calderon told the press that Venezuela will propose and promote "conciliation and understanding" at the next OPEC ministerial meeting. "Basically, we will lean toward an agreement to maintain the price at $34 per barrel," he affirmed.

"Everyone knows that we are going through difficult times," Calderon said, pointing out that in spite of the slight prewinter improvement, the demand for petroleum "continues to be weak."

"We cannot forget that only 3 years ago OPEC was producing 31 million barrels per day, and now we are producing about 20 million; in other words, about 33 percent less." "Furthermore, this brings political difficulties for some OPEC member countries, particularly Iraq and Iran. All of this has tremendously complicated the internal situations of the OPEC member countries."

Calderon said that any drop in petroleum prices would not bring about an immediate increase in demand, which renders this measure senseless and unfavorable. "I think it would be preferable to maintain the price at $34 per barrel and freeze it next year and if possible in 1984. This way we could obtain an increase in demand that would improve the situation for the OPEC member countries," he added. The minister warned that with price reductions "one knows when the descent begins, but not when it will end." Calderon reiterated that Venezuela favors programming OPEC production, but he pointed out that such an agreement should be supported and respected by all of the member nations.